

THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Fall 2018

Volume 26, Number 3



Ryder 3
158.4 grains
VHS 1991.14.1

Vermont Ryder-3 Landscape Copper
Vermont Historical Society Collection (See Page 16.)
Image Courtesy of Jack Howes

Featured in this issue:

- President's Corner
- Minutes of C4 Meeting at Philadelphia ANA
- John Kraljevich Awarded ANA Medal of Merit
- Blacksmith Made Coins at Crown Point
- That "Broken A" Punch
- A Visit with Colonial History
- The Vermont Historical Society Collection
- English Commonwealth Halfgroat Recovered in New Jersey
- A Tabago [sic] Counterstamp
- C4 Library Challenge: British Records of RI and Providence Plantations
- Book Review(s) - The Triple Crown: Three Recent Books on Contemporary Counterfeits and an Earlier One
- Trip Report: ANA Summer Seminar on Early American Paper
- Eyewitness Account of the Treasure Fleet
- Announcements, Classified Ads, Sponsored Ads and Reciprocal Club Ads



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Sommer Islands Twopence.
BMA Type II. W-11410. Rarity-7.
Large Star Between Legs.
Fine-12 (PCGS).

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The Cohasco Collection
and other important properties



1723 Wood's Hibernia Halfpenny.
Specimen-64 BN (PCGS).
From the Archangel Collection.
Ex Roper.



Undated (Circa 1616) Sommer
Islands Shilling. W-11460.
Rarity-5. Small Sails.
EF-40 (PCGS).



1652 Pine Tree Shilling. Large Planchet.
Noe-5, Salmon 4-Di, W-720. Rarity-4.
Without Pellets at Trunk, Reversed N.
AU-55 (PCGS).
From the Cohasco Collection.



1723 Rosa Americana Twopence.
Martin 3.2-E.3, W-1334. Rarity-4.
AU-55 (PCGS).
From the Cohasco Collection.



1722 Wood's Hibernia Farthing.
Rarity-5. MS-63 BN (PCGS).
From the Archangel Collection.
Ex Robison.



1723 Pattern Wood's
Hibernia Farthing. Silver.
Specimen-63 (PCGS).
From the Archangel Collection.



Image Enlarged
1783 John Chalmers Threepence.
W-1760, Breen-1018. Rarity-5.
MS-63 (PCGS). OGH. CAC.
Ex Eliasberg. The Finest Known.



Image Enlarged
1783 John Chalmers Threepence.
W-1760, Breen-1018. Rarity-5.
AU-58 (PCGS).
From the Cohasco Collection.



1787 Immunis Columbia
Copper / Large Eagle Reverse.
Rarity-4+. EF-45+ BN (PCGS).
From the Archangel Collection.



1694 Carolina Elephant Token.
Hodder 1-E, W-12100. Rarity-7.
PROPRIETERS. MS-63 BN (PCGS).
From the Archangel Collection.



1787 Connecticut Copper.
Miller 33.34-Z.11, W-3860.
Rarity-5. Draped Bust Left.
EF-45 (PCGS).
From the Cohasco Collection.

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1787 George Clinton Copper.
Rarity-7-. MS-62 BN (PCGS).
From the Archangel Collection.



1786 Non Vi Virtute Vici Copper.
Rarity-6. Small Head.
VF Details-Tooled (PCGS).
From the Archangel Collection.



1787 Excelsior Copper.
Indian / Eagle on Globe.
Rarity-7-. Fine-12 (PCGS).
From the Archangel Collection.



1788 New Jersey Copper.
Maris 49-f, W-5470. Rarity-5.
Horse's Head Left.
Fine-12 (PCGS).
From the Cohasco Collection.



1785 Vermont Copper. Landscape.
RR-2, Bressett 1-A, W-2005.
Rarity-3. VERMONT.
VF-30 (PCGS).
From the Cohasco Collection.



1788 Vermont Copper.
RR-26, Bressett 16-T, W-2190.
Rarity-6+. Bust Right.
Fine-15 (PCGS).
From the Cohasco Collection.



1796 Myddelton Token. Silver.
Rarity-6. Proof-63 (PCGS).
From the Archangel Collection.
Ex Spence.



Undated (Circa 1798) Theatre at New York Token.
W-9080. Rarity-6. Proof-65 BN (PCGS).



1787 Fugio Copper. Pointed Rays. Newman 8-X,
W-6750. Rarity-3. STATES UNITED, 4 Cinquefoils.
MS-63 BN (PCGS).
From the Cohasco Collection.



1792 Silver Center Cent. Judd-1, Pollock-1.
Rarity-6+. Copper with Silver Plug.
Reeded Edge. SP-45 (PCGS).
From the Archangel Collection.
Ex Judd. The Original Judd Plate Coin.



1792 Birch Cent. Judd-3, Pollock-4.
Rarity-8. Copper. Plain Edge. AU-58 (PCGS).
From the Archangel Collection.
Ex Levick-Judd-Laird Park. Unique.



1792 Disme. Judd-10, Pollock-11.
Rarity-6+. Copper. Reeded Edge.
AU-58+ (PCGS).
From the Archangel Collection.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(Jack Howes)

This newsletter should get to you just before the C4 convention at the Fall Whitman show in Baltimore. I hope to see many of you there! Stack's-Bowers has a very extensive colonial collection for the auction this year. Be sure to take a look, there is something for almost every collector. I am often in and around our C4 area. Please stop by and say hi. Bring some coins to look at! The educational evening will again be Thursday and as in recent years there is a \$25 charge for dinner. Please get tickets from the C4 table. This year is the club's 25th anniversary. We are having some commemorative medals struck. We will have both copper and silver ones. They will be available from our table during the convention or by mail afterwards. Tentative pricing is \$5/copper and \$35/silver plus shipping cost if mailed.

In the recently completed elections, all of the officers and Regional VPs were running unopposed and were all reelected for two more years. Voter turnout was relatively light.

C4 published two new books this year. Syd Martin will be signing copies of his recently published book on St. Patrick coinage. And we will have Dave Bowers signing his new book on Vermont coinage at our table also. Check at our table to confirm dates/times for the book signings.

The club has had 30+ new members sign up since the last convention. Since we lose some members every year this is pretty much a break-even number. I would ask that any of you members that are also members of local coins clubs to consider giving a talk about Colonial Coins and hand out flyers. We have just printed a new supply. You can get some by stopping by our table or contacting your regional rep.

I also want to make a plug for the ANS (American Numismatic Society) and their new Journal of Early American Numismatics (JEAN) – see ad on page 13. This is edited by Chris McDowell and Chris has lined up some interesting material. I recently reviewed a couple of articles by Gary Trudgen. One is about the Atlee Brewery and the other about Walter Mould. Good stuff. Check it out.

As I have pointed out I can't write this column without having some numismatic content. This month I have a New Jersey copper to show. This is from an eBay auction earlier this year. It was not expensive but it must be pretty tough to find as we did not find an example for the NJ book. It is a Maris 43-d, very late die state (VLDS) reverse with a clear break from rim to shield between seven and eight o'clock. I have found that if you look hard enough and long enough you will find something new!



NJ Maris 43-d, VLDS

MINUTES OF THE C4 GENERAL MEETING AUGUST 17, 2018 (3 PM) AT THE PHILADELPHIA ANA MEETING

In attendance were 20 members of either C4, EAC or both.

After introductions, the meeting was called to order by the co-chairs, Dave Menchell and Jay Knipe. The meeting was initially opened for general comments on any subject by the attendees. Mark Borchardt provided a summary of the upcoming sale of more items from Eric Newman's collection. The sale, to be held in Dallas from November 7-9, will include, among other items, a large number of coin scales, a large reference library and Eric's extensive collection of evasion and counterfeit halfpence.

A general discussion of the upcoming C4 convention followed. Dennis Wierzba summarized the general plans for the C4 Convention, to be held in Baltimore during the Fall Whitman Expo (October 25-28.) The format will be same as last year, with the social gathering on Thursday evening (10/25) and the SBG auction on Friday evening (10/26.) Dave Menchell commented that a number of colonials to be sold in the sale were on display at the SBG table at the ANA. Several of these coins were from a major collection of significant colonial type and 1792 coinage (The Archangel Collection) highlighted by SBG as a major part of their auction.

Post-Meeting Note Dave Menchell contacted Brian Kendrella at SBG for clarification of the Archangel Sale arrangements. Dave was told that Archangel is an old estate collection being consigned by the family, and probably not a C4 consignment. Dave did make Brian aware of the C4 schedule (including the educational program Thursday evening) and requested that the Archangel sale not overlap with C4 activities, if possible. Brian thanked Dave for the information and said that SBG are still accepting consignments and have not finalized the auction schedule.

Other highlights of the C4 convention will include a book signing on Thursday evening with Dave Bowers and Syd Martin will be present to sign copies of their works. Dennis mentioned that Jim Rosen has reserved rooms for study groups and should be contacted by anyone wanted to organize a such an event. Dave discussed the need for C4 table exhibits and volunteered to be a resource if any member needs help preparing an exhibit. Exhibit Chairman Leo Shane mentioned some of the presentations to be given during the convention: Contemporary counterfeits (R. Moore,) Cobs (D. Sedwick,) and Castorland jetons (C. Sullivan.) Leo and Jim Glickman will again give their Colonials 101 presentation, which was well attended last year.

Besides the convention, other topics discussed included:

- 1) C4 Publications and C4N: Dave summarized the current status of C4 publishing; the recently released books (Syd's monographs and the Contemporary Counterfeits book) and one in preparation (R. Clark's monograph on CT varieties.) He also asked everyone to consider preparing a paper for C4N; submissions may range from a simple write-up describing a newly acquired coin to a longer paper on a broader topic. Leo reissued his "Library challenge"; to write a short review of book from the C4 Library for publication in C4N (of course reviews of books not contained in the Library are also welcome.)

- 2) Wayne Shelby asked if there are plans to release a CD containing C4N issues back to 2011. The answer to this question was not known, but there was some discussion regarding the necessity for this, as these issues will eventually be included on the Newman Numismatic Portal (NNP.)
- 3) Dan Freidus indicated that he will be updating the census of Higley coppers which he last assembled about 25 years ago. He asks that any C4 member having input to please contact him. Mark Borchardt indicated that he will supply information acquired by Heritage.
- 4) Ray Williams discussed his plans to stream the Colonial Happening at the 2019 EAC meeting (Dayton, OH) live on YouTube. He is making plans to set up the necessary video recording and upload capabilities. A general discussion followed concerning whether this would also be appropriate (and capable of being done) for the talks at the upcoming C4 Baltimore convention. General feeling was that there may not be enough time to organize this. However, it was felt that moving to this format is a very worthwhile goal.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Knipe, C4 Secretary

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## **JOHN KRALJEVICH, JR. RECEIVES ANA MEDAL OF MERIT AWARD**

On June 29, 2018, The American Numismatic Association (ANA) issued a press release with the heading, "ANA Honors Distinguished Numismatists with Awards," concerning awards to be presented at the ANA World's Fair of Money in Philadelphia, August 14-18, 2018. The ANA's Medal of Merit is described as honoring "individuals who have dedicated numerous years of service to the Association and promotion of the hobby." The press release describes the contributions of Medal of Merit recipient, ANA Treasurer, Larry Baber, then goes on to say:

*Longtime ANA Summer Seminar instructor and Early American coinage expert, John Kraljevich Jr. is the second recipient. When he was just 16, he received the ANA's Outstanding Young Numismatist of the Year award. He has served as secretary of the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (1994-96), vice president of the Medal Collectors of America (2003-06) and secretary of the Early American Coppers (2008-12.) An ANA member since 2008, Kraljevich volunteers as an exhibit judge, has authored numerous award-winning articles and contributed content to more than a dozen books and auction catalogues.*

Editor: Congratulations, John! Well-deserved.

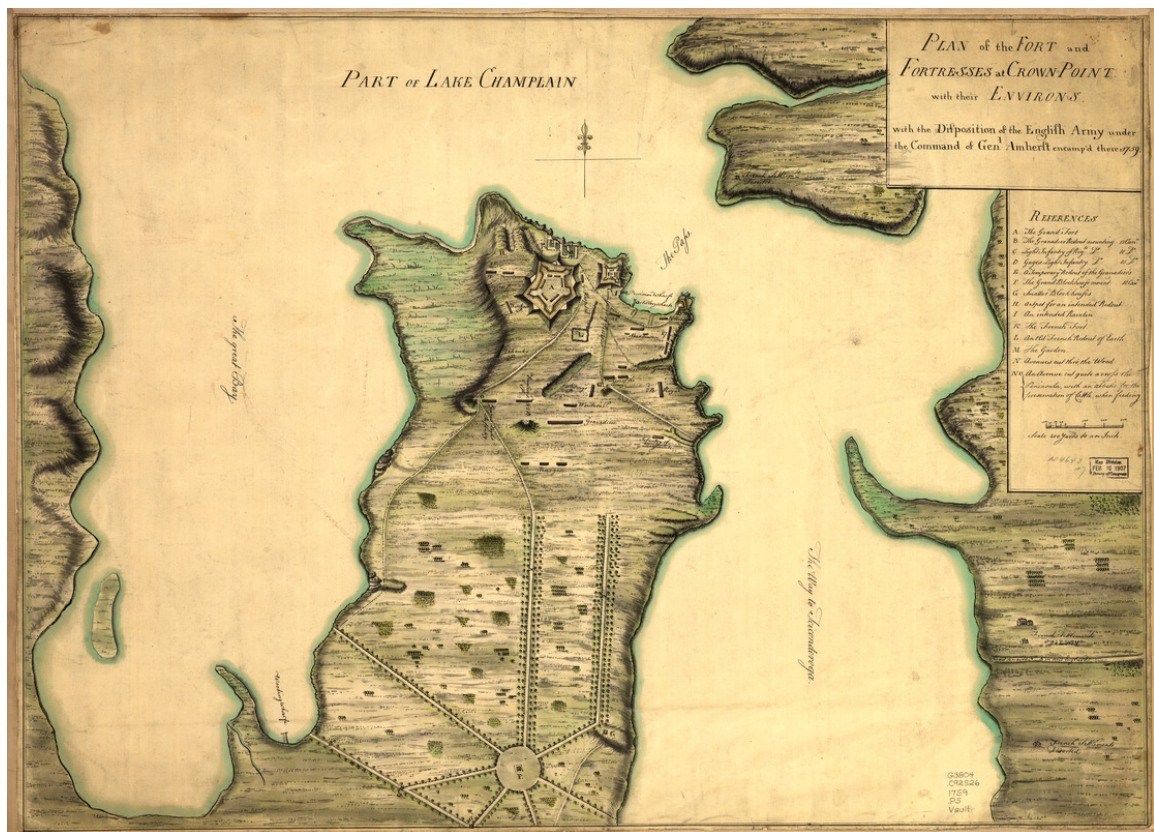
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BLACKSMITH MADE COINS AT CROWN POINT?

(Russell Easterbrooks)

I'm a Charter member of C4, and I've been away from Colonial research / collecting over the past ten years, following other endeavors. Many may remember my research / articles in earlier *C4 Newsletters*, and David Bowers' *Rare Coin Review*.

Gary Trudgen's research uncovered a wonderfully interesting bit of history concerning the possibility that coins may have been made by a blacksmith at Crown Point.



Plan of the fort and fortress at Crown Point with their environs: With the disposition of the English Army under the command of Genl. Amherst encamp'd there 1759. Map reproduction courtesy of the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library.

The British granted lands in the area of Crown Point to soldiers, along with housing for the officers. By 1773 the community surrounding the fort at Crown Point had grown to 83 houses. With a tavern, a general store and an apothecary shop, the area was a trading center for commerce as travel on Lake Champlain increased.

The Fort's fortification complex including three redoubts, a series of block houses and redans connected by a network of roads, covered nearly three and one half square miles!

This makes the whole area sound as if it was in need of circulating coinage. Trudgen's research uncovered a British military inquiry concerning damage to the fort from a fire on April 21st, 1773.

Gregory T. Furness' "Crown Point, An Outline History" describes the fire:

...A chimney fire in the soldiers barracks spreading to the pine shingles of the barracks and the squared log walls of that part of the fort. Captain William Anstruther's detachment of the 26th regiment was unable to control the flames that burned for three days, resulting in the destruction of the main fort.

The garrison remained in structures outside the fort, while recovering cannon, shot, ironworks, tools, and other useable items that survived the fire.

Trudgen's account states, "Once one hundred barrels of gunpowder stored in the magazine were engulfed, the ensuing cataclysmic explosion and fire destroyed the entire fort." This sounds about right for gunpowder needs as, in 1775, Seth Warner captured the fort and 114 pieces of cannon, and other heavy ordinance.

The military inquiry into the damaged fort was held in 1774. During the inquiry it was revealed that private William Gilfoil of the 26th regiment, who was also employed as a local blacksmith, was known to have made halfpence. Three witnesses interviewed said they had heard that Gilfoil made coppers.

Trudgen's account goes on to state that a Surgeon's assistant of the 26th Regiment, Findly Miller, stated during the inquiry:

There were many Coppers current at Crown Point, beat out to the size of a half penny which were said to be made by Gilfoil, and I once got fourteen of them in exchange for a shilling.... There was a French- woman who went by the name of Mrs. Dalton who said she had received several dollars worth of them, but not from Gilfoil in particular; They usually went by the name of Gilfoil's Coppers..... I have been told, but I don't recollect by whom, that he was instructed in making them by a deserter from the 52 Regiment .

The witnesses had never seen Gilfoil making Coppers. Their information was based on general knowledge.

Eric Newman suggested that "beat out" may refer to their appearance rather than their method of manufacture. It is possible the coins may not have been hammered at all but may have been cast counterfeit. After all Gilfoil was never witnessed making the coppers in question.

Where did the copper that Gilfoil may have used come from? We know that gunpowder kegs used copper bands to hold these dry kegs together. Discarded keg bands would seem to be about the right thickness and, if a blacksmith were to make a circular

iron punch, “beating out” copper disks would seem a simple task on an anvil. The color would be natural, not melted or cast. Only the edges of the disks would display bright metal color. Without any visible design showing, the “coins” color and appearance (heavily worn) would be important. Cast or melted copper can be “colored,” increasing the process for a small-scale blacksmith. So it may be possible the witness referred to appearance of the coins being “beat out,” as meaning punched out (?)

It is also possible that Gilfoil could have placed a real coin on top of his natural color, newly punched disk, and hammered a faint incuse design from the real coin. Again, this would be hardly noticeable because of the color and worn look of his product.

There was little question about the need for coppers during this time frame in the colonies, and very likely in the Crown Point area. If Gilfoil was making coins it would need to have been a simple process, using available materials at hand.

To me it seems very likely Gilfoil made some “coins,” brought about by the lack of coppers for commerce in his area, with a simple process and materials at hand. A hundred possible coins would have been melted long ago, but it’s interesting to speculate.

Sources:

Furness, Gregory T., “Crown Point (*Pointe a la Chevelure*) An Outline History,” website: *America’s Historic Lakes: The Lake Champlain and Lake George Historical Site*, http://www.historiclakes.org/crown_pt/furness.html, 1998, last updated January 23, 2016, Accessed July 1, 2018.

Newman, Eric P., “Letter to the Editor,” *The Colonial Newsletter*, vol. 27, no. 3, Nov. 1987, seq. p. 1019.

Trudgen, Gary, “Gilfoil’s Coppers,” *The Colonial Newsletter*, vol. 27, no. 2, July 1987, seq. pp. 997-1000.

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What is it? Answer on page 63.

THAT “BROKEN A” PUNCH

(Gary A. Trudgen)

In recent years there has been a good deal of discussion about the “Broken A” punch. The most recent appears in Dave Bowers’ new book on Vermont coppers.¹ Numismatists have observed that this punch is found on a wide variety of dies from the American Confederation period. Curiously, some of the dies are rather crude while others are well made. Originally, it was assumed that this punch was the property of a single die engraver indicating that he had engraved dies for several unrelated coinage operations. In recent years, numismatists have come to the logical conclusion that there had to be more than one “Broken A” punch in use by more than one die engraver.² For this to have occurred there must have been a commercial source for steel puncheons rather than each die engraver fabricating punches for his personal use.

Figure 1 illustrates a typical “Broken A” punch, this one occurring on a Vermont Ryder 16 copper.



Figure 1: “Broken A” punch (enlarged) on the obverse of a Ryder 16 (Bressett 15) Vermont copper. The break occurs above the central crossbar in the upper half of the left vertical stroke. That part of the punch broke away much like a cud on a coinage die.

“Broken A” punches are found on many diverse coppers, for example: Connecticut, New Jersey, Vermont and Confederation pattern coins.³ It is difficult to believe that a commercial business would sell broken punches made from a defective matrix and even harder to believe that customers would buy them.⁴

¹ Bowers, Q. David, *The Copper Coins of Vermont and Interrelated Issues 1783 -1788*, Stack’s Bowers Galleries, 2018, Appendix 1. Sylvester Crosby was the first to discuss the “Broken A” punch in his 1875 book *Early Coin of America*.

² John Lorenzo presented this topic in the 1995 paper “The So-Called Atlee Broken ‘A’ Letter Punch” that appeared in the *ANS Coinage of the American Confederation Period COAC*, edited by Philip L. Mossman.

³ See McDowell, Christopher R., “James F. Atlee, Albion Cox, Bob Birch and the 1792 Birch Cent,” *The Colonial Newsletter*, November 2016 , p. 4495 for several examples of the “Broken A” punch. Also, see the Bowers and Lorenzo cited references for more examples.

⁴ Working punches are made by first engraving a master punch. The master is used to impress an incused image of the punch into a matrix. Working punches are produced from the incused image in the matrix.

Therefore, the punches at the time of sale must have been unbroken, but due to an inherent weakness in that section of the letter on the punch, they broke shortly after their first use.⁵ The break was not catastrophic enough to prevent further use of the punch and the die engravers continued to use them with the option of repairing the break in the coin die.

Some broken A's may have been repaired in the die but it seems most were not. Figure 2 shows the "A punch" before it broke.⁶ A comparison of the legend letters of the Bressett 15 and 16 dies shows that the legends were made from the same set of punches. Thus, the "A punch" broke after its use on Bressett 16 and before its use on Bressett 15.



Figure 2: The "A punch" (enlarged) before it broke as found on the obverse of a Ryder 24 (Bressett 16) Vermont copper.

Many factors determine how a punch looks on a struck coin, making punch comparisons problematic. The same punch can appear differently as a result of how deeply it is driven into the die and at what angle it was held. Plus, since these coins were struck without retaining collars, the softness of the planchet metal and the force of the strike can also alter the shape of the punch on the struck coin due to radial metal flow. Also, photographic comparisons of legend letters can introduce visual errors when more than one camera setup is employed. These factors must be considered when comparing "Broken A" punches on different coins.⁷

New York City area die engravers did not have to look far to purchase steel letter and numeral puncheons. A recent immigrant from London was doing business in the city at No. 178 Queen Street and he advertised that he could provide "[a]ny curious Punch or Instrument made in steel, iron, brass, etc." His name was Bob Birch and he was working out of Dr. John Stites' store in late 1784, just as interest in copper coinage was ramping up.⁸ Dr. John Stites, Jr., was born in Elizabethtown, New Jersey, on April 25, 1743. At

⁵ It has been stated that the "Broken A" punch is the result of a defective matrix. This is very unlikely because it requires that the original engraved master punch was broken before it was used to produce the matrix. Even if this was the case, the matrix could have been easily repaired before producing the working punches.

⁶ The Bowers' Vermont book identifies the unbroken "A punch" as the "Weak A" punch in Appendix 2.

⁷ Photographic overlays of individual legend letter shapes can be misleading due to the many variables. Overlays are best used to compare the placement of various elements between two coinage dies.

⁸ See the cited McDowell reference for an excellent discussion concerning Bob Birch.

the age of 20 he moved to New York City where he became both a merchant and practicing physician. He married Susannah Brasher on January 16, 1764. Susannah was the cousin of Ephraim Brasher, Jr., the goldsmith of Brasher doubloon fame. During the Revolutionary War Stites supported the British cause but attempted to stay neutral. Later in life he moved to Kentucky where he died on January 12, 1812.⁹ See Figure 3 for a copy of the Birch advertisement along with an ad from John Stites in Figure 4.

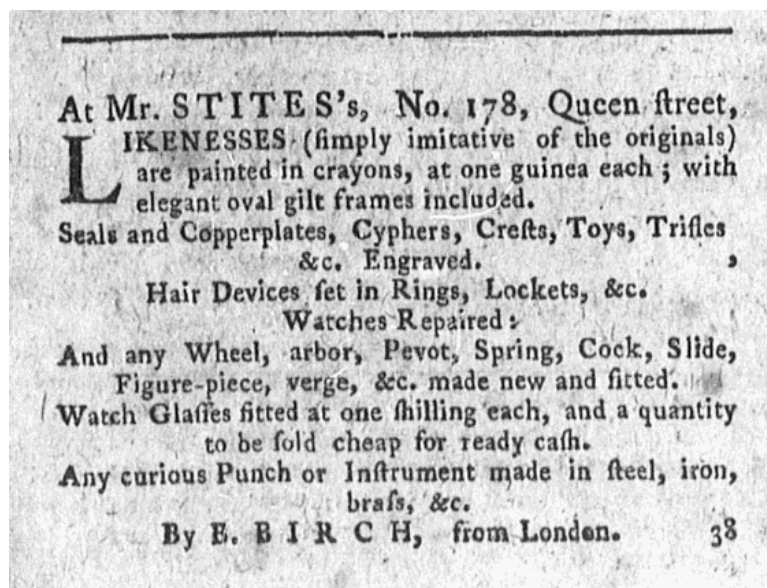
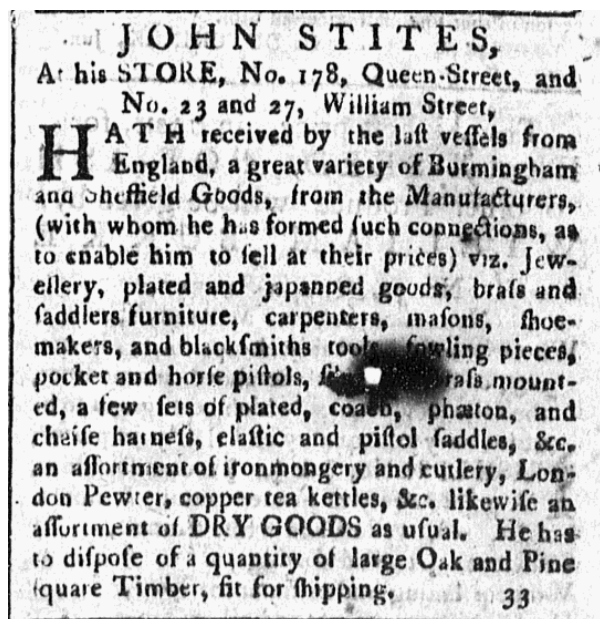


Figure 3: Bob Birch's ad in the *New-York Packet*, December 20, 1784. In this ad Birch announces that he can provide any punch made from steel, iron, brass, or some other metal.

Figure 4: John Stites' ad in the *New-York Packet*, November 25, 1784. Stites sold a large range of dry goods at three different locations in the city.



It is probable that the "Broken A" punches were fabricated by Bob Birch.¹⁰ Mayor's Court minutes establish that Birch knew some of the individuals involved in the state coinages. On March 6, 1787, Bob Birch sued Albion Cox. This lawsuit occurred during the New Jersey copper coinage contract period making it entirely possible that Birch was engraving coinage dies for Cox and Goadsby at this time.

⁹ The preceding biographical information on Dr. John Stites was gleaned from <http://simonpg.com/d61.htm>.

¹⁰ At this time, only two other engravers were advertising in the local papers from the tristate area of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. They were Peter Maverick and Abraham Godwin but neither of these men announced that they made or had steel puncheons for sale.

The duo had parted ways with their die engraver, Walter Mould, in late 1786 when the coinage contract was divided and Mould went off to produce coins by himself in Morristown, New Jersey. In turn, Cox was acquainted with Samuel and James F. Atlee, as revealed by litigation, also in the Mayor's Court.¹¹ During this period, the people involved with copper coinage in the New York City region all knew and interacted with each other and this undoubtedly included Bob Birch.

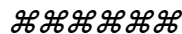
During the Confederation Period, commercial availability of steel puncheons, suitable for making coinage dies, appears to be only from regional sources, such as the case with Bob Birch. It seems that there were no large companies providing national or international sources for puncheons. A study of the numerous styles of legend and date punches found on the multitude of counterfeit British and Irish coppers during this period supports this conclusion. In fact, some counterfeiters had no punches at all as the legends and dates of their products were completely hand engraved.¹²

Acknowledgements

The author thanks Jeff Rock for reviewing this article and making suggestions for improvement.

¹¹ Together Samuel Atlee, James F. Atlee, and Albion Cox sued Christopher Duyckinck in 1786 and the trio was jointly sued by John Murray, Jr. in 1787.

¹² The large Simian family of counterfeit halfpence is a good example of hand engraved legends and dates. See the book *Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpenny & Farthing Families, Volume One*, 2018, Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4.)



THE JOURNAL OF EARLY AMERICAN NUMISMATICS

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The first issue of *JEAN*, under the same editorship as *CNL*, was release this summer. This first issue is 228 pages in length and covers topics relating to: Connecticut coppers, New England Shillings, Spanish Colonial Coinage, Higley Tokens, and the Auctori Plebis Token. Those who subscribe now will receive Issue 1, Volume 1 of *JEAN* while copies last.

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A VISIT WITH COLONIAL HISTORY

(Paul Turdo)

My wife and I have been visiting a resort in Round Top, New York, located in the Catskill Mountain area, for over thirty years. This year, August of 2018, always with metal detector in hand when visiting, I found a 1781 Spanish 1-real only about four inches in the ground. When it became partially exposed, I saw a bright shine, which is an indication of silver. At first I thought it could be a Canadian dime. As I cleared the obverse, the 1781 date glared in my face. I was in shock!

On the property, which was a farm and to some extent still is, is a blue historic marker of a massacre that took place in 1780. The story goes that Johannes Strobe and his wife lived in this particular area of Round Top in the town of Cairo, which is pronounced as "Care-roe." They owned a farm and were too busy with chores to decide whether they owed their allegiance to Britain or America.

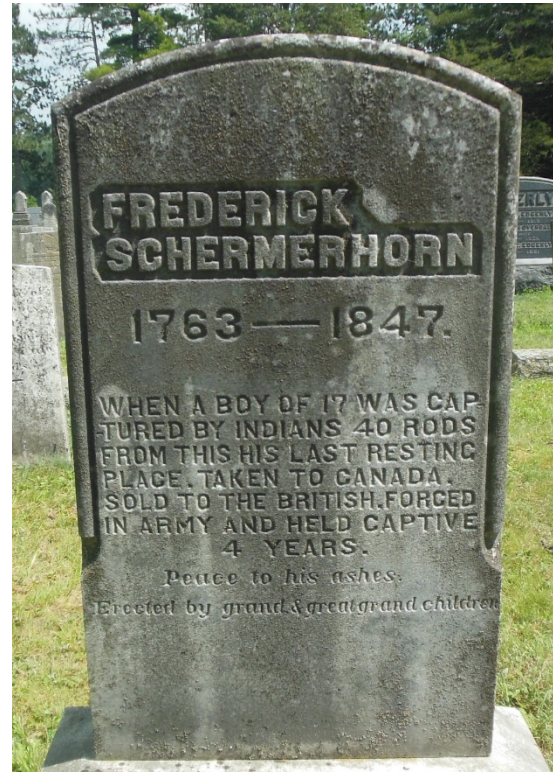
Frederick Schermehorn's brother, Jacob, was married to the Strobe's daughter and lived with them. One day in 1780, Frederick and Jacob's father needed help to herd sheep and sent 17-year-old Fred to fetch his brother to come home from the Strobe's farm about eight miles away. However, his brother had gone to a mill and was not due home until the next day. And so, Fred decided to spend the night at the Strobe's. He woke up the next day to the sound of screams from his sister-in-law as Indians approached the house. Upon entering the house the Indians seemed friendly at first but became unruly when Mrs. Strobe tried to stop one of them from taking a piece of linen. She was then tomahawked and as her husband entered from working the fields, he too was killed. The raiders then took Frederick prisoner and set fire to the house. The sister-in-law had fled with her four children to a field upon the first sight of the Indians. Jacob arrived home to find his wife and children gone, their home burnt to the ground, along with the charred remains of his in-laws.

The Indians abducted young Fred over mountains to the west and reached Fort Niagra. While there he was given a choice: Either remain with them or enlist in the British army. He decided to enlist, thinking that he might be able to escape at the first chance he got. His captors received 40 Spanish dollars, reward money offered by the British government for delivering him, which was the standard payment for every captured colonist.

Frederick served four years with a company called the Forester's, which consisted of 50 white men and 100 Indians. He made an attempt to escape but failed. He was later sent to Canada where he remained for several months after war's end.

He made his way back to the Hudson Valley still dressed in his British uniform, later married and had five children. The family eventually bought a farm a short distance away from where he was kidnaped in 1780 and he died February 13, 1847. His tombstone resides in the Round Top Cemetery adjoining the property of the resort we visit yearly.

Could he have lived where I found the real? Was it his?



(Left) Historic marker at the site of the massacre.
(Right) Frederick Schermerhorn's grave in Round Top Cemetery.



1781 Spanish Real found by author. All photos by author.

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THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION

(Mark Vitunic and Jack Howes)

MV: This is another example of a small project going off on a tangent and expanding into a much larger endeavor. Jack and I have been working on an article on the Vermont Ryder 5 variety on and off since last year's C4 - expect to see it in a future C4N. Part of this effort is tracking down all known examples (both well-pedigreed and questionable) of both struck and cast specimens for close inspection. [NOTE: If you have one, please contact us!] Knowing that the Vermont Historical Society (VHS) owns both an RR-5S *and* an RR-5C made a visit seem worthwhile. As none of the VHS coin collection is on public display, a research appointment was necessary, and I was able to schedule my visit for the day after Memorial Day, 2018. I was told that to the best of their recollection no one had examined the coins in more than 20 years!

Jack and I quickly realized that although our initial focus was primarily on the two Ryder 5 examples, it would be a shame to not use this opportunity to take digital photographs of the entire collection! But wait - I've never photographed coins before other than casual iPhone snaps that are always of disappointing quality. No problem - Jack offered to lend me a professional camera setup and instruct me on its use over the phone - that way I could practice at home in the weeks leading up to the big day. Great idea!

I made the trip up to Barre (rhymes with "Larry,") a two-and-a-half hour drive from my home, for my 9:30 AM appointment. I was greeted by Mary Labate Rogstad, the museum registrar who also worked with Tony Carlotto back in 1998! The collection is housed in two 3-ring binders, a large green one and a smaller blue one, each containing vinyl pages filled with 2 x 2 cardboard/mylar coin holders. The coin holders themselves are *unstapled*, staying closed when inserted in the tight sheet pockets and springing open when removed!

There are 87 coins in the collection, which Mary and I went through methodically one by one over a 5-hour period. The coins were in accession order which is pretty much random, so I never knew if the next coin to photograph was going to be a \$50 coin or a \$50,000 coin! Of the Vermont die varieties Ryder 1 through 39, there are 38 varieties represented (counting both RR-5 examples.) Missing are Ryder 33 and Ryder 37. Interestingly both of those are present in the Bennington Museum collection 120 miles away, so together these two state museums have a complete set! The 49 additional coins in the VHS collection are comprised of duplicate Ryder specimens, non-contemporary copies, and related (non-Vermont) issues. The earliest accessions were donated in 1902 by Henry Elkins of



Chicago, including both Ryder 5 examples. Most of the higher-grade specimens were donated by Sanborn Partridge who acquired them in various auctions leading up to their accession in the 1990-1991 period.

Weights were recorded for all specimens and, where noteworthy, die rotations as well. Lastly, one of the goals/hopes of my visit was to measure the specific gravity of the two Ryder 5 specimens. If you have ever done this, you will know that it involves taking a dry weight measurement and a *wet* weight measurement. I'll admit, I had doubts that they would grant this request. From the perspective of the museum, I would be tying a thread to a 200+ year old historical artifact (and rather expensive piece of museum property) and then dipping it in water! Hmmm. We would have to get permission from the executive director of the museum. I carefully explained the reason for the measurement, that no harm would come to the coin, and that we would let it dry completely before returning it to its holder. Then I did a demo on a Lincoln Memorial cent to allay any remaining fears. Permission granted! A successful day! Thanks, Jack and special thanks to Mary for her patient assistance and meticulous notetaking on that day.

Here's the inventory of the 87 coins:

1x: Ryder 4, 5C, 5S, 10, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 28, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39

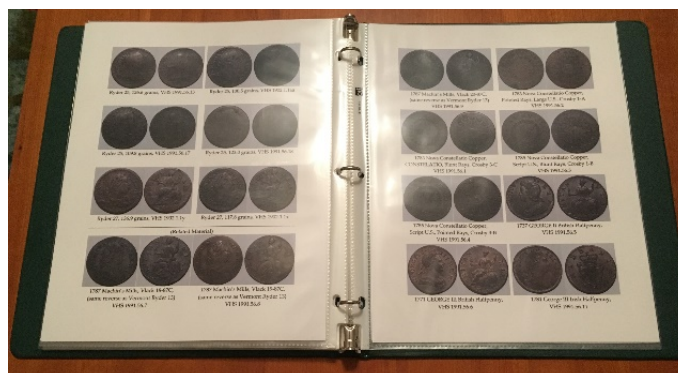
2x: Ryder 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 11, 14, 17, 18, 24, 29, 30

3x: Ryder 6, 8, 16, 27

4x: Ryder 12

5x: Ryder 13, 25

Plus: 4 Nova Constellatios, 3 Machin's Mills, 2 British halfpennies, 1 Irish halfpenny and 8 non-contemporary fakes/replicas/counterfeits



If you are planning on attending C4 in Baltimore this October, stop by the club table where we will have a binder with photos of all 87 coins. This same binder was gifted to the Vermont Historical Museum for their records. And now, photos of what Jack and I felt were the nicest Vermonts:

VHS Plate 1



Ryder 3
158.4 grains
VHS 1991.14.1



Ryder 5 Struck
119.8 grains
VHS 1902.1.1b



Ryder 9
121.6 grains
VHS 1990.22.2



Ryder 1
112.2 grains
VHS 1990.22.1



Ryder 5 Cast
116.9 grains
VHS 1902.1.1nn



Ryder 7
131.6 grains
VHS 1991.14.4



VHS Plate 2



Ryder 14
122.4 grains
VHS 1991.14.9



Ryder 18
128.1 grains
VHS 1902.1.1gg



Ryder 24
119.4 grains
VHS 1991.14.16



Ryder 13
109.5 grains
VHS 1991.14.8



Ryder 15
103.7 grains
VHS 1989.73.1



Ryder 23
122.7 grains
VHS 1991.14.15



VHS Plate 3



Ryder 26
107.8 grains
VHS 1902.1.1g



Ryder 29
132.7 grains
VHS 1991.14.19



Ryder 31
108.4 grains
VHS 1987.36.3



Ryder 25
125.0 grains
VHS 1991.14.17



Ryder 28
102.9 grains
VHS 1990.22.3



Ryder 30
116.6 grains
VHS 1902.1.1e



Ryder 25
125.0 grains
VHS 1991.14.17



Ryder 28
102.9 grains
VHS 1990.22.3



Ryder 30
116.6 grains
VHS 1902.1.1e



Ryder 25
125.0 grains
VHS 1991.14.17



Ryder 28
102.9 grains
VHS 1990.22.3



Ryder 30
116.6 grains
VHS 1902.1.1e

VHS Plate 4



Ryder 34
110.1 grains
VHS 1989.73.2



Ryder 36
104.4 grains
VHS 1991.14.20



Ryder 39
102.4 grains
VHS 1991.14.21



Ryder 32
127.8 grains
VHS 1990.22.4



Ryder 35
121.1 grains
VHS 1989.73.3



Ryder 38
110.0 grains
VHS 1990.22.5





Vlack 19-87C
VHS 1991.56.8
Machin's Mills

JLH: Mark and I had been talking about how to get more data on the known Ryder 5 specimens for the article that we are developing. I was pleased that Mark was able to set up a visit to the Vermont Historical Museum and take the time to photograph this outstanding collection of Vermont coppers. There are a number of important coins in this collection. There are examples of the many of the rarest varieties and also a number that are condition census.

As mentioned above, the collection is made up of donations from two people: Henry K. Elkins of Chicago, Illinois in 1902 and Sanborn (Sandy) Partridge in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Henry Elkins was born in Vermont in November, 1818, and died rather well-to-do in Chicago in 1902. He appears to have made his money in various ways – at first with a warehouse business and toward the end as a ship owner. Along with the collection of coins the estate also donated a number of documents. From those I learned that his father, Jonathon Elkins, was born in 1761, joined the Vermont militia in 1781 and was a scout at the end of the American Revolution. He was captured by the British and sent first to a prison in Quebec and later to Mill Prison, Plymouth, England, along with many other American prisoners. Benjamin Franklin learned about these prisoners and sent each prisoner a shilling sterling each week for support. They were exchanged on June 24, 1782 for Cornwallis' grenadiers and light infantry after his surrender to Washington at Yorktown. One of the other documents that was donated was a journal of sorts that Jonathon Elkins wrote while in Mill Prison.

For this article we have plated 24 coins. All the coins discussed below are plated in this article. The highlights for me are:

Ryder 3: A tough variety in any grade. I grade this one EF+. Struck slightly off center but with full legends and full denticulation on a defect free planchet. The planchet is unusually broad and the weight is well above normal for a landscape variety. This is from the Stack's Massachusetts Historical Society sale from 1973, Lot 23. Ex Appleton and Crosby plate coin. High condition census.

Ryder 5 struck: Porous and well worn on obverse but extremely nice reverse. One of four known.

Ryder 5 cast: Finest or 2nd finest known. One of eight known.

Ryder 9: The Baby Head. EF+. Really a nice example. Perfectly centered, complete legends on an almost defect free planchet. Slight roughness on reverse. Condition census. Only a couple of better ones known. Ex Stack's Massachusetts Historical Society sale from 1973, Lot 25. Ex Appleton.

Ryder 13: Choice UNC and extremely well struck up. Very early die state with virtually all the legend (minus date of course) visible on reverse. Close to top of condition census.

Ryder 15: Another really tough variety. VF. Some light roughness on obverse with a bit of verdigris in the planchet defects. I have this tied for 6th finest of twenty-three that I have recorded.

Ryder 23: AU. Super color and surfaces. Slightly off center. Not a particularly rare variety but in higher grades exceptionally difficult to find. Slightly weak at centers. Equal to the Taylor coin.

Ryder 24: AU+. Great color and surface. Slightly weakly struck up in centers. Second finest known.

Ryder 26: VF-. The 2nd Cole coin. Purchased by Sandy Partridge and donated. VHS has a better example that was sold in a B&M auction in 2002 [Logan-Steinberg]. We have not been able to figure out why the Elkins coin was deaccessioned.

Ryder 28: AU-. Interesting coin. Super well struck but with some pitting and staining on both sides. I had this as finest known before seeing an image. Not sure where it stands now but still condition census.

Ryder 30: An exceptional example of the backward C variety. Almost a full reverse C shows. Only one or two others with this much of the C showing. Great color and surfaces. VF+. Condition census or close to it. Plated by Carlotto.

Ryder 31: EF+. Excellent even light brown color. Perfectly centered obverse. Reverse slightly off center with only part of legend and date on coin. Never the less one of the best reverses I have seen. Certainly condition census.

Ryder 32: F/VG. Decent color and surfaces. Probably third best of five known. Some toned down scratches on both sides.

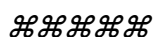
Ryder 34: VF. Good color, surfaces slightly rough but attractive. Second finest of six known.


Ryder 35: VF. Very interesting. Struck of counterfeit Geo. III Irish halfpenny -- about half of the undertype shows. Dark chocolate brown. Third best of sixteen known. This variety is R6+.

Ryder 36: EF. Close to top of condition census. From EAC75 auction, Lot 418. Plated in Carlotto.

Ryder 38: VF. Top of seven known. Slightly porous. Reverse has some planchet defects in the center. Well centered and full legends.

Vlack 19-87C: Not a Vermont but using the same reverse die as Ryder 13 but in a much earlier state. This example is AU and one of the finest known. Definitely CC for the variety.







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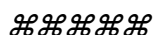
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AN ENGLISH COMMONWEALTH SILVER HALFGROAT (TWO PENCE) RECOVERED IN BURLINGTON COUNTY NEW JERSEY

(Wayne H. Shelby)

FEBRUARY 2018: Finally! After 32 persistent and consecutive years metal detecting Burlington County and areas throughout Southern New Jersey, an English silver coin found its way to the surface by way of my Whites metal detector and a trusty shovel.

The Lucky Find: A Commonwealth twopence, also known as a halfgroat, minted between 1649 and 1660. This small denomination piece along with its related penny and halfpenny issues are a more common type and are not dated. The twopence coin exhibits shields bearing St. George's cross, representing England, and the Irish harp. On the obverse, palm and laurel fronds symbolize peace and victory, respectively. A Roman numeral "II" above the reverse's double shields denotes its value.



My dug example is holed by a square nail above the large St. George's shield on the obverse. The coin is nearly bent in half, most likely due to deliberate force since there are no signs of heavy damage, scrapes, or scratches across its surface, as frequently encountered on farm field recoveries, due to numerous years of plowing and discing. Furthermore, silver coins are far more subject to such damages as compared to copper coins due to silver's softer composition.



Although this piece retains little numismatic value, it certainly rates high with respect to our American colonial history. Any 17th or 18th Century English silver coin recovered in the colonies is very unusual and seldom encountered. This general assessment is likely due to the

regulations enacted by the British crown involving mercantilism and the Navigation Acts as outlined below:

“The Navigation Acts were a series of English laws that restricted colonial trade to England. They were first enacted in 1651 and throughout that time until 1663, and were repealed in 1849. They reflected the policy of mercantilism, which sought to keep all the benefits of trade inside the Empire and to minimize the loss of gold and silver to foreigners. They prohibited the colonies from trading directly with the Netherlands, Spain, France, and their colonies. The original ordinance of 1651 was renewed at the Restoration by Acts 1660, 1663, 1670, and 1673, with subsequent minor amendments. The Acts formed the basis for English overseas trade for nearly 200 years. Additionally, the Acts restricted the employment of non-English sailors to a quarter of the crew on returning East India Company ships.”¹

Historical records also indicate that in the later century and during the American Revolution, British soldiers were paid approximately 6 to 8 pence a day, mostly in English silver mixed with whatever Spanish silver or copper coin was available at the time. However, it is interesting to note, most of a soldier’s pay found its way back to the unit he served through purchasing needed supplies, rations, wine, whiskey, rum, tobacco and numerous other items including bread.²

To place this silver English coin recovery into perspective, I have provided a general outline as to dates and types of my total British Isle coin recoveries:

ENGLAND

Rulers: Charles II, William & Mary, William III, George I, George II, George III.

293 English Coins Total:

- 246 copper halfpennies (including contemporary counterfeits)
- 41 copper farthings (including contemporary counterfeits)
- 3 Cartwheel Pennies
- 1 Conder token
- 1 George III “counterfeit” gold guinea (cut half)
- 1 Commonwealth silver 2-pence (holed & bent)

IRELAND

Rulers: James II, Charles II, William & Mary, William III, George I, George II, George III

71 Irish Coins Total:

- 64 halfpennies (including contemporary counterfeits)
- 3 farthings
- 1 gun-money crown
- 3 17th century merchant tokens

TOTAL: 364 British Isle Coin Recoveries

Only 1 find of silver (Commonwealth 2 pence)

Therefore, 1 out of 364 = 0.274%

My Commonwealth twopence find is documented to Site #76 in Burlington County, New Jersey. I had discovered this location a dozen years ago and at that time recovered a number of coins and artifacts. However, I have not ventured back until early this year, February 2018.

Artifact & Coin Recoveries at Site #76

12 Coins Total:

- Commonwealth silver 2 pence (halfgroat) 1649-1660, (holed & bent)
- 1694 English William & Mary farthing
- 1694 English William & Mary halfpenny (date not visible)
- No date English William III halfpenny
- 1734 English George II halfpenny
- 4 Blank halfpenny size coppers
- 3 Blank farthing size coppers

28 Buttons Total including:*

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • 1 pimple/doublet type | (Type used c. Pre-1700) |
| • 12 vent back type | (Type used c. 1700-1765) |
| • 11 spun back or tom back type | (Type used c. 1740-1795) |
| • 3 brass with no back marks | (Type used c. 1740-1795) |
| • 1 octagon cuff link | |

* Note: 1-piece, back-marked buttons, not represented here, date to c. 1795-1840.

Other Artifacts:

1 complete buckle
16 parts of buckle (most of designs & patterns)
3 thimbles
1 turn style valve
1 spoon handle end trifid type (1600's)

Remarks:

In my opinion and based on the artifact and coin recoveries it appears this location once contained a structure, such as a house made of brick, and was occupied from the 1690s through the early 1750s. Plenty of physical signs litter the farm field in a concentrated area with pieces of brick, pottery, black glass, pipe stems and china plate. This can be readily seen after field plowing and heavy rains.

Unfortunately, the heavy clay ground condition, which tends to hold water, along with years of fertilizing, have wreaked havoc on the copper coins. Some pieces are damaged to the extent of being nothing more than a metal disc as indicated in the list of recoveries above.

Conclusion:

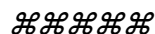
We will never know the real reason why this Commonwealth twopence ended up at this location and the journey it has made since being minted. However, we can note that it was important enough to be brought over the pond by an individual or a family, most likely in the late 17th or early 18th century. Since the coin is holed, there remain a number of thoughts about its intended use:

- It may have been worn around the neck on a chain or string to prevent the tiny piece being lost.
- It may have been worn or used as an ornament of sorts to signify prior memories of the Commonwealth period and/or the English Civil War.
- It was common practice in the day to nail a coin to the structure of a new house in the hope of bringing good luck.
- It may have circulated as legal or non-legal tender before and or after being holed.
- The coin may have been purposely bent during the 17th century to ward off evil spirits, as practiced in the 1600s and many prior centuries.

End Notes:

¹ Anonymous, "The Navigation Acts," Wikipedia,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Navigation_Acts, accessed September 7, 2018.

² Cubbison, Douglas R., "Eight Pence a Day, The Pay of the Private British Soldier during the War for American Independence," Sons of Liberty Chapter of Sons of the American Revolution website, <http://www.revolutionarywararchives.org/eightpence.html>, accessed September 7, 2018.



A TABAGO [SIC] COUNTERMARK

(Marcus Mayhugh)

The final chapter in Robert Vlack's book on French billon coinage is devoted to the old French *sous* and *sol marques* that circulated in the West Indies once they were decommissioned in America. The small billon pieces that previously circulated in America were readily accepted in the Caribbean due to their small size and partial silvering. In fact, they became the preferred currency of the slave populations and were sometimes referred to as "Negro money." When the original supply was depleted, a whole new group of look-a-like stampees and 2-sous coins were spawned, including thousands, upon thousands of counterfeit coins from Birmingham. An effort was made by the different island populations of all nationalities to distinguish the good from the bad coins by adding their own distinct countermark, thus created an interesting series of countermarked coins to be enjoyed by future collectors.

The island of Tobago was one of the most prolific at issuing their countermarked coins. The main stamp being used was that of a large "TB." This stamp equaled what was known as a "black dog" or three-halfpence. Another stamp with a small annulet beneath the "TB" represented a stampee, a coin valued at 2 1/4 pence. It took 4 stampees, or 6 dogs to equal a Caribbean bit of 9 pence. Many different varieties of these counterstamps exist, making the Tobago pieces the most common of all the island stamps. A large number of newly counterfeited coins were also created because one could simply add a similar looking circle annulet under the "TB," and *voila!* a black dog was instantly transformed into a stampee with a 3/4 pence increase in value.



Crude, homemade "TB" stamps that plagued the island.
(Left) With annulet and (Right) Without annulet. Photos by author.

Tobago, at one time, apparently contemplated a completely different style and motif for their countermarked island currency. This new design is composed of the word Tabago [sic] spelled out in a rectangular indent. This variety is extremely rare and is considered by some to be a pattern. Fred Pridmore, the foremost authority on West Indian coinage listed only two known examples, one being in the Manchester Museum, and another in Fonrobert's 1878 catalog. Both coins are actually in the Fonrobert catalog, Pridmore being rather vague on the subject. His attribution of the coin in the Manchester Museum is misleading, causing one to think there might be two different sources for Pridmore #6 and

#7, and, in his introduction he refers to the Fonrobert coin in the singular, “a curious piece,” not pieces.

It should be noted that on these coins the word Tobago is misspelled as Tabago. It is somewhat telling that up to this point not a single image of the counterstamp exists, even though every major reference on West Indian coinage cites the existence of the coin. Atkins provided a line drawing of it in 1889 and Howland Wood listed it in his work on the West Indies, but inexplicably corrects the spelling to Tobago. Ernest Zay, an early French collector, refers to the stamp twice. Pridmore speculated that the misspelled word was possibly a reason that the new design was not chosen. What Pridmore fails to mention is that the French who had recently ceded the island to the British consistently spelled the island's name as Tabago on their coins and medals (see Betts 52 and 59.) It's easy to imagine the British administration rejecting a stamp that used the French spelling of the island's name.

Another interesting fact attesting to the rarity of this countermark, and Pridmore's assertion that is a pattern, is that not a single example appears in any of the major West Indies collections to date. These sales include the Howard Gibbs, Fred Pridmore, John J. Ford, Ralph Gordon and E. Roehrs collections. These are the heavy hitters of the Cut and Counterstamped series and all had ample resources and sufficient connections to obtain one. Obviously, there just weren't any available to be had.

Remarkably, two hundred years after they were struck, not one, but two of these rare Tabago tokens surfaced this summer. The first is the Manchester Museum specimen, reported by Pridmore. The second, and much more questionable of the two, appeared on ebay as a BIN (Buy it now) from a French seller. The Manchester piece appears in a Dix, Noonan, and Webb auction catalog of the Robert Lyall collection of cut and countermarked coins, September 25, 2018. It has TABAGO spelled out in raised letters and it struck over a French crowned “C” stampee. It weighs 2 grams and is described as being of the highest rarity. The description of the coin says that Lyall obtained it from the museum in 1981. When and how they obtained the coin is not given.

TABAGO counterstamp on a Cayenne 2-sous host. Sold on ebay. Author's collection.



The ebay coin, likewise, has the word Tabago spelled out in an indented rectangle. However, it is struck over a Cayenne 2-sous, counterfeit Black dog. Interestingly enough, the mysterious Fonrobert coin was also reported as being struck over a Cayenne 2-sous host coin, (Pridmore #7) although it is not known if the coin was a counterfeit. Few, then or now, can tell the difference if they are not familiar with Ralph Gordon's attribution points. The ebay coin has been cleaned at one time, the reverse rather harshly. It weighs 1.52 grams and the letters are incuse as opposed to the letters on the Manchester coin that are raised.

So, the big question here is: Is the ebay piece a genuine striking of a Tabago counterstamp, or is it some modern concoction created to fool collectors? It can't be a contemporary counterfeit since apparently these types did not enter into circulation. It is somewhat problematic in that the design is incuse rather than raised, while the letters and their placement within the rectangle are different from that on the Manchester coin. Obviously, the coins come from two different stamps. Since the Fonrobert and the ebay coin are struck over Cayenne pieces, could one punch possibly have been made to stamp "black dogs" like these two, while yet another was created to mark stampees like the Manchester coin? (New information has rendered this argument moot.) In looking at similar coins, the St. Eustatius "SE" counterstamp comes with an incuse, as well as a relief counterstamp. Pridmore speculates that the St. Eustatius incuse coin is a contemporary counterfeit, but the commentary under the St. Eustatius pieces in the Lyall sale says that it is possible that both pieces are official. If true for St. Eustatius, why should incuse patterns be disregarded for Tobago? Granted, the differences between the two letterings on the Tabago pieces, incuse vs. relief, are quite subtle, but perhaps this is the reason the project was scrapped, and the "TB," with and without the annulet, was adopted. In Zay's work *histoire monetaire des Colonies Françaises*, p.70, he lists the "Tobago" stamp, and "TB," and includes another "T" (possibly later silver issues) as *en Cruex*. *Cruex* translates to hollow or more accurately here depression.

As your author was beginning to compose a conclusion to this piece, a rather startling new fact was revealed. As one final reference was checked, Ralph Gordon's "Fonrobert's West Indies coins: Some Observations," the new fact came to light. But first a few words about Fonrobert are probably in order. Jules Fonrobert was a wealthy German collector who amassed a huge collection of coins, including one of the first large groupings of West Indian coins, sometime before 1877. His collection is of the utmost importance because it is believed by many to have been composed before there was much public interest in this series and, thus, was free of the many modern fakes that plague the series today. If it does contain counterfeits, they are contemporary to the times and were made with an eye toward instant profit rather than being made to fool collectors. It was thought to have been assembled by sea captains and merchants commissioned by Fonrobert, therefore being representative of whatever areas they visited.

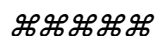
Back to Ralph Gordon, who describes these Tabago pieces as "odd, indeed" and one of the first puzzles in his article...His big revelation, which is really no revelation at all, is that the second Pridmore coin is not struck over a Cayenne 2-sous. It is in fact, stuck over a US large cent dated 1798! Gordon says, keeping in mind that the ebay coin is a Cayenne 2-sous, albeit a fake one, "It may well be that no Tabago countermarked Cayenne 2-sous has in fact been recorded from direct examination." Amazing! How could Zay, Atkins, Howland Wood and Fred Pridmore all have missed this? Could Zay, writing in 1892, have seen another Tabago counterstamp? On page 230 he lists a stampee struck "*en Creux*." This revelation sent me back to my Fonrobert reprint, and true enough, under #7850 is "*Auf dem Brustbilde eines Ver St. Cents von 1798, ist der gleiche Stempel eingepreßt.*" I must admit I missed it myself. Perhaps because the first four Tobago coins were listed under Ludwig XVI, and then a new heading appears under George IV and below it, a line drawing of a Tortola coin. Really, there is no excuse outside of careless reading.

Okay, a large cent of 1798. Wow! Talk about something that sounds like a fabrication. First, since the act for establishing the “TB” and “TBo,” counterstamps was proclaimed in September, 1798, a traveler would practically have had to be standing outside the U.S. Mint, obtained the cent, jumped on a boat to Tobago, spent the coin and had it circulate to where the coiners could stamp it. That is, if we believe these were patterns prior to the 1798 law. Gordon has suggested tentatively that the Tabago stamps were tried out after the “TB” experiment failed. Second, the composition of a large U.S. Cent is all wrong. Wouldn't the coiners have tried their new stamp out on a coin that they intended to use rather than on a much larger and sturdier coin than the flimsy sous? However, we have to return to theory that Fonrobert predated all the insane fabrications created later for sale to collectors. At any rate, there is a very rare counterstamped large cent out there somewhere.

In summation, a new example of the very rare TABAGO counterstamped coin has surfaced. It is troublesome in two regards: first, it has no provenance outside of coming from a French seller who states that it comes from an *Ancienne* collection, 1950, and second, it is a different stamp than the only known plated example and is incuse rather than in relief as well. In all probability it is a fabrication. However, perhaps it shouldn't be discarded out of hand. This is a very enigmatic issue about which practically nothing is known. Island counterstamps come in incuse and relief strikings, and different stamps for the same issue are not unheard of. The stamped sous of Tobago are very interesting and we now know there is a very rare countermarked large cent floating around out there.

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C4 LIBRARY CHALLENGE BOOK REVIEW

**J. R. BARTLETT'S RECORDS OF THE COLONY OF
RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
IN NEW ENGLAND, 1741–1756**

(Russell Easterbrooks)

Book: *Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in New England; Vol. V, 1741-1756*

Editor: John Russell Bartlett, Rhode Island Secretary of State

Edition: Knowles, Anthony and Co., Providence, RI, 1860

Summary: Wonderful book, full of interesting colonial monetary history of the times, useful to the researcher. I have included some of the more interesting excerpts.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the first Wednesday in May, 1742:

Whereas, John Potter, of South Kingstown, in the county of Kings county, did by petition to this Assembly, set forth, that at the Superior Court of Judicature, &c., held at Newport, within and said colony, on the last Tuesday in March past, he was sentenced to stand in the pillory five times, or pay five several fines, amounting in the whole to 10,000 [pounds,] the last payment to be made, or punishment suffered to be on the 21st day of June next; and being desirous to avoid suffering the infamous punishment, aforesaid (it being a thing impracticable to raise so large a sum within so short a time,) prayed that he might have the liberty of paying in gold dust at 20 [pounds] per ounce, into the general treasury, the sum of 5,000 [pounds,] being one half of his fine; and that thereupon this honorable Assembly would please to allow a further time for the payment of the other half into the general treasury, he giving good security for that purpose.

Whereupon, it is voted and resolved, that the said petitioner, John Potter, have the liberty of paying the sum of 5,000 [pounds] (being one-half of all his fines,) into the general treasury, in gold dust, at 20 [pounds] per ounce; and that Peter Bours, Esq., be, and is hereby appointed to examine said gold dust, with the general treasurer, to see that the same is merchantable; and that the petitioner's so doing, he have a farther time granted, until the 8th day of October, next ensuring, for the payment of the other 5,000 [pounds,] being the remaining half of all his fines, he giving bond to the general treasurer of this colony, two sufficient sureties, to pay the same at the said time.

This seems like a lot of gold dust, 250 ounces worth!! My research found the name Potter is quite prevalent in records of South Kingstown. John Potter may have been the son of

Colonel John Potter who was a large land holder in South Kingstown and the village of Matunuck. Worth a little more research.



Map of Rhode Island 1778 by Thomas Kitchin.

Map reproduction courtesy of the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library

John Potter was born in North Kingstown in 1715 and at twenty-one married Mary Perry, who died shortly after. Potter took a second wife, Elizabeth Hazard, a few years later. During 1740 Potter was appointed to the grand committee for signing the Rhode Island bills of the emission of 1740, a privileged position. In February 1742 he secured 300 sheets from the large plate, from John Coddington to sign. Potter had a hand in counterfeiting in the past, but now he could secure paper and ink make his own bills and sign them!

Potter and several others were found out as we see from the *Boston Evening Post*, April 1742, that 15 persons were indicted for counterfeiting paper currency. Five indictments were brought against John Potter, one for having plates engraved and four for passing twenty shilling notes. The Rhode Island case records of 1740-1748 are lost to damage, but Potter was sentenced to stand in the pillory, have his ears cropped, and pay a total of fines amounting to 10,000 pounds.

This leads use back to were did Potter get 250 ounces's of gold dust to pay half his fine imposed on him by the General Assembly. Could he have gotten it in South Kingstown?

In an Article by *Strange New England*, "Lost Gold Mines in New England," there was a reference to a deed dated April 1738: "...it was first documented that a man named Walton found a gold-bearing quartz vein in the woods along Durfee Hill in Foster." (near South Kingstown)

Another article in *Gold Mining and Prospecting*: “One type of gold is found in veins of Hydrothermal deposits where the gold often occurs as the native metal in quartz veins. The second type of gold is often found in placer deposits in sand and gravel on the beds of streams or on beaches fronting on the ocean.” Gold is often Panned, as gold is 19.3 times as dense as water, were most minerals are only 3 times as dense.

The name John Potter of South Kingstown is seen on deeds with large acreage selling & purchasing, transactions. (500 A, 300A, 175 A) All acreage is different in value, but one deed was listed at 3 pounds, 6 shillings, 8 pence per acre, during 1744.

Wherever John Potter got his gold dust, it would seem a large amount for the times. It was common to see “clipped” copper and silver coins during colonial times. Gold coins were more often “filed” to remove gold dust from around the edges, but given the scarcity of gold coins in the colonies, it’s unlikely Potter would have had a seen enough gold coins to obtain the large amount of dust he possessed. Potter either panned the gold in the area, or obtained it from someone, in a large land transaction or shipping trade form South America.

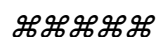
The General Assembly 1744 – “Fitting out the Colony Sloop, Tartar for guarding the coast paid the following wages to the crew: Captain 25 pounds per month, Lieutenant 15 pounds per month, the Master & Gunner 12 pounds per month, the Mates, Carpenter, and Boatswain, 11 pounds per month.”

The General Assembly 1755 – “Raising into service men to join the regiment under the command of Col. Christopher Harris shall receive the following monthly wages: Captain 100 pounds, Lieutenant 60 pounds, every Ensign 50 pounds, Sargent & Drummer 20 pounds, Common Soldier 16 pounds.”

The General Assembly 1756 - “The General Assembly, and the authority thereof it is enacted, that the prices of ferriage between Newport and Jamestown, and between Jamestown and North Kingstown and South Kingstown be raised to wit; For man and a horse, six shillings, for a draft horse six shillings, a single person 3 shillings, an Ox or neat creature eight shillings, a hog, calf, or sheep, one shilling, for horse and chaise or chair, 24 shillings, the owners of every ferry, taking leases of the committee that shall be appointed for the purpose; and giving bond for their due and faithful performance of such leases.”

It should be noted (Map) this is a longer ferry ride over open water, than most river crossings in the colony inland.

Interesting read “about the times” and money used. Paper bills were even made with “Crown Point” on them, as the Colony’s part to raise funds for repairs to the fort at Crown Point.



Note: The following article contains a review of a book for which the reviewer is one of multiple contributors. In any such a scenario, regardless of the author's efforts to be objective, the potential for bias or the perception of bias must be acknowledged, as we do here and as the author has done in the article. In fact, most of the people who are knowledgeable enough to review works described in this article contributed to one or more of them. Still, to be clear, opinions expressed in C4 Newsletter articles and reviews are those of their respective authors and are not the opinions of C4, its officers or its editors. Neither the C4 Newsletter nor C4 endorses any specific work over another.

**THE TRIPLE CROWN:
THREE RECENT BOOKS ON 18TH CENTURY
COUNTERFEIT BRITISH AND IRISH COPPERS
(AND A REVIEW OF AN OLDER ONE)**

(Jeff Rock)

What has long been one of the most neglected series in all of numismatics has had something of a renaissance in the last decade, with more written and published on them than in the last 200 years combined. I speak, of course, of the 18th century counterfeit copper coinage of England and Ireland under King George II and III. Much of this new research has come from American collectors – not surprisingly since these counterfeits were actually the most prevalent coin in circulation in colonial America, through the Revolutionary War, the era of state coinage issues and even as late as a decade or two after the formation of the Philadelphia Mint. While their importance to the American economy has long been known, few were brave (or foolhardy?) enough to collect them because 1) there was no reference book for the series and 2) there are a mind-numbing number of varieties known, with current estimates of about 10,000 individual die varieties. To put that in perspective you could collect every variety of every state coinage, add in the Massachusetts silver varieties, then add in all the other things in *The Red Book* that are considered colonial – and your collection size will be just about 10% of all the known counterfeit British and Irish copper coinage of the same period.

The late Mike Ringo was certainly the pioneer in this field, and he was avidly collecting the series in the 1980s (a time where prices were low and every British dealer was more than happy to supply him with things since they literally had no one else interested in them.) While not the first person to collect them – they did, after all, manage to survive 200+ years without being melted down, so they were saved and enjoyed by some collectors over two centuries – Ringo was the first American to do it in any systematic fashion. The timing was fortunate, because the internet, digital cameras and the ease of sharing images via e-mail were all coming into vogue, and collectors were able to quickly, easily and cheaply exchange images and information. This led to more collectors coming into the fold, and more sharing amongst them. Similarities between varieties were noted, and the concept of “families” was born – a tool to start organizing a series that had been unfathomable for so long.

The first book to look solely at the series was published in 1990 by William T. Anton, Jr. and Bruce Kesse, and was titled *The Forgotten Coins of the North American Colonies*. It was a lavishly-produced work, containing 10 full-page black and white photographic plates. Not printed plates, but actual photographs. The plates depict 171 different pieces, mostly of counterfeit British and Irish halfpence and farthings, though they also contain examples of counterfeit Spanish coinage, regular-issue French coinage, Canadian Blacksmith tokens, evasion coppers, Conder tokens, Machin's Mills counterfeit halfpence and New Jersey coppers. The coins depicted were all from the Anton collection, and nearly all of the counterfeit British and Irish pieces were purchased, in one transaction, from noted British collector Alan Judd. Those who knew Anton knew the force of his personality, and it is little wonder that he was able to convince Judd to sell his collection more-or-less intact, with the per-coin cost low enough that collectors today would cry if they knew what things were sold for at the time.

The *Forgotten Coins* book gave collectors something that had been missing – a reference work. Unfortunately, with only 150-ish counterfeits illustrated in the plates, it was obviously far from complete. It also suffered from text that sounded good, but which simply could not hold up to any sort of scrutiny. There were many errors, omissions and questionable claims within the text. Among the most egregious was the claim that just about anything that was crudely made was automatically American – ignoring the fact that there were bad engravers with no artistic merit, cruddy planchet stock and weak presses on both sides of the Atlantic. Anton and Kesse were not alone in thinking this, and many crude pieces from the Ringo collection had “Primitive American” written on the envelopes for things that we now know were made in England and done at a late enough time that they likely never circulated in America. This is the general trend of publication, of course – the first book gets things wrong and future generations of collectors will discover new information, write new articles and books and try to correct past mistakes. Today, collectors mostly buy the book to look at the amazing photographs (most of the coins plated there have never appeared for public sale to this day,) but rightly ignore much in the printed text.

For over two decades that book was the ONLY reference for the series, and even when it was known to be flawed, it remained the first place most collectors would look whenever they picked up something new. Along the way other tools were given to collectors. Articles on the series began appearing in *The Colonial Newsletter* and later *C4N*, the early ones laying the groundwork for how families could be linked and those in the last decade publishing those families and illustrating known die varieties. Clem Schettino produced a CD containing images of the coins in his own collection, which was one of the best formed – and with many, many more images than were in the Anton-Kesse book. The CD was a boon to collectors, as it was neatly organized, with photographs of varieties listed both by date and by family, with each family then known getting its own folder with images. One could, for example, open the “Long Neck Family” folder, flip through the photographs and visually grasp the things that tied the family together. With 30 families then known, a lot of images were neatly labeled and organized – but a large number were not. These were originally called “orphans” and over the decade many found their way into new families. The final tool was the sale of the Mike Ringo collection, beginning in January, 2008 just a few short months after his untimely death (and continuing

for a half-decade thereafter.) The first Ringo sale contained the gems of his collection, and the coins were expertly photographed and meticulously described by John Kraljevich for Stack's. The auction catalogue became a reference work in its own right. Further sales of the Ringo collection (and a few other offerings of counterfeits by Stack's in the same years) were not as highly detailed, but are still worth owning today to show the breadth of the Ringo collection as well as for the illustrations within their pages. While these tools were certainly much welcomed they had the problem of being in multiple sales over a long time period, and lacking the convenience of being in a reference book that could be quickly and easily referenced.

A quarter-century after the publication of the Anton-Kesse reference, another book on the counterfeit series appeared. *Counterfeit Georgian Copper Coins*, by Richard Coleman, was released in 2015. A small-sized, 209-page book, it contains a short history of counterfeits, a look at some of the notorious counterfeiters (and their fates when they stood trial) and some good, basic information useful to the collector, including a section on how to tell the difference between a counterfeit and a genuine coin. This takes up over 20% of the book, while the rest is devoted to listing and illustrating pieces and giving pricing information on each, in a format that resembles the British coin guides of the past (no surprise since the author is British, and the book was printed in England as well.) These listings are divided into two sections, one for counterfeits and one for evasions. Each section has utility – and each has problems.

The counterfeit section is further broken up by country and denomination, and listed by date within each of those sections. Each entry is given an identification number, and usually priced in five grades (G, VG, F, VF and EF,) with the pricing given in U.S. dollars instead of British pounds.

The biggest problem is that there is no order to the listings, other than by date, which means that examples that might obviously be from the same family might not be listed near each other, but rather in whatever order they were pulled from the box. Nearly all the coins here were from the author's collection, which is problematic because it contained a limited number of varieties and many well-known varieties are not listed – nor are some known dates or even some entire families. This means that the book, even with hundreds of listings, it is still only a small slice of the whole, and collectors could easily find more unlisted varieties than ones that are actually included. The photographs are in color and are actual size, which means that usually photos of four coins can fit onto a page. The actual-size photos are difficult to use, and enlarged images would have been better, though that would have of course increased both the size and the cost of the book. The pricing information is pretty inaccurate across the board, skewing well to the generous side for most issues, though with some extremely rare items wildly underpriced. This is a problem with ANY price guide, which will be obsolete before the ink is dry. The addition or loss of a few collectors could seriously move prices in either direction, and a series that has few published auction records is even harder to estimate prices for. The pricing in five grades is deceptive because many of the varieties don't exist in all of those grades.

The second half of the book is made up of evasion coppers, which mostly follows the listing done by James Atkins in the late nineteenth century, with a few new varieties

added in as sub-varieties to the original Atkins number (so, for instance, where Atkins 8 is listed as an evasion copper with the AUCTORI PLEBIS obverse legend, three varieties unlisted by Atkins are here called 8a, 8b and 8c.) While not every variety is illustrated, the work does contain more photographs of the evasion copper series than anything yet published – and while this alone would seem to be useful to the collector, it presents its own set of problems too. There are a number of varieties listed in Atkins that do not exist – he apparently relied on descriptions sent to him from collectors, and misreading of legends on worn coins and other errors crept into his text. Coleman perpetuates these errors by listing them as if they all do exist – and then compounds those errors now and then by making up photographs of varieties that do not exist (by using the obverse picture of one coin and a reverse from another;) there are other errors where the photograph used for a certain piece is not from the variety it was supposed to be, and some of these “stock photos” were used numerous times. The pricing is given in the same five grades – even though very few evasions are known in grades of EF, every single variety is listed with prices in that grade level, and those prices are again highly optimistic. The other flaw with this section of the work is that while it lists varieties that do not exist it completely ignores hundreds that do – which is inexplicable because many of those were listed in the Cobwright reference work published two decades earlier. The author did put in some of these new varieties – but only when they were in his own collection. A little more work here could have made the book extremely useful to the collector of the series but, as is, it actually causes more confusion.

The Coleman book certainly filled a niche – in two printings, 800 copies were sold, mostly in the UK to dealers and collectors there that literally had nothing else to refer to. To put this in perspective, that is 3 or 4 times the number of every book that C4 published has yet sold. While not particularly useful to the specialist because of what it doesn’t list (and the many errors in things it does,) the book will likely serve as a stepping-stone into the field by giving new collectors a semblance of the normalcy every other series has, a book with pretty pictures, some background history, and some prices. This is a time-tested, initial way for collectors to wrap their heads around the series, and decide if they want to go into it in more depth. In this sense, the book is akin to our own U.S. *Red Book* – which does not attempt to list every variety and with pricing that isn’t too often tethered to the reality of the market. We know that many collectors of colonials started their collections by getting interested in “those weird coins at the front of the book,” and so, despite its flaws, the Coleman book is worth owning. In the Anton-Kesse work you were asked to ignore the text, and here you are asked to ignore some of the photos and much of the pricing. For both works you need to remember that the listings are far from complete by variety – but, just like the *Red Book*, they were never claimed to be absolutely complete. These authors have done good work by introducing the series to collectors who may not have ever heard of them and, as said, future collectors will be able to add to and correct what has been published.

The next book chronologically is *Forgotten Coins of the North American Colonies: 25th Anniversary Edition*, by John Lorenzo. This work came out in 2017, which would make it 27 years after the original – but the author changed the math a bit in his favor, erroneously stating the original was done in 1992. The work contains 6 main chapters and nearly as many appendices, almost none of which relate to the coins covered in the original

Forgotten Coins book in any sort of detail (and sometimes not at all.) The first chapter concerns the Canadian Blacksmith Tokens, and this is probably the only chapter that will be useful to most collectors. The chapter gives an entire page to each variety, with oversized illustrations and text that was at least partially vetted by other collectors, notably Todd Gredesky. The author has borrowed photos from a number of sources, sometimes credited and, where he owned the variety, generally put in his own specimen. In many cases, better examples were available. The photos are something of a mishmash in how they are presented, some with white backgrounds, some with black, some trimmed, some not, some with extraneous background partially erased, some rotated from where they should have been, etc. A little time with a photo editor could have cleaned this section up and made it more attractive – and having other readers proof it before it was published would have been corrected some of the more obvious errors.

The addition of several “new” varieties in this book is problematic, and some of them simply do not belong with the Blacksmith series, but rather with the counterfeit British and Irish copper coinages. This is especially so for the series Lorenzo lists as “BL-15,” which are large penny-sized pieces, mostly of George IV. There is no rhyme or reason to this section, and the author seemingly lists every crude counterfeit of this type that he owns or as has seen as a pseudo-Blacksmith piece, even though none has any proven relation to Canada. Both British and Irish types are listed and, inexplicably, a counterfeit Queen Victoria penny as well, seemingly only because it was somewhat crude, even though by the time that ruler was on the throne the period for making Canadian Blacksmith tokens was over. The collector would do well to take this particular section with a large grain of salt, and try not to have their head spin by the seeming contradictions in the text (as well as numerous grammatical errors and incorrect pedigree information.) Still, there is some useful information to be gleaned from this chapter – even though waiting a few months to publish the book until after the sale of one of the finest collections of Blacksmith tokens ever formed (the Robins collection, sold by Heritage) might have made that section even stronger, allowing the author to also give very recent auction records and incorporate new information into his listings.

The second chapter is also useful, being on new varieties of counterfeit portrait-style Spanish 2-reales, a series first described and listed by John Kleeberg in a Coinage of the Americas Conference publication printed in 2000 and updated in *The Colonial Newsletter* in 2014 with a listing of new varieties. The current chapter contains even more varieties discovered since, each with an oversized illustration and description. As with the Blacksmiths, the photos are on a variety of different backgrounds, with no cropping or editing when it would have been useful. The varieties aren’t presented in date order, but rather in order of their discovery which isn’t particularly useful when you are trying to locate a given date. Although the varieties are numbered sequentially, several numbers are completely missing, with no explanation. Still, for collectors interested in this fascinating series, this installment is worth having, and this book is the only place it can be obtained.

From two useful chapters, the book moves steadily downward in utility. The third chapter looks at world counterfeits with an unnecessarily broad date range of 1500-1800 (even though the images illustrated in the chapter run from 1550 to 1833.) The coins are presented by date, not by country – so flipping through pages one sees a mishmash of coins

of the world presented in a way that disrupts the flow and has the reader jumping back and forth across much of Europe (despite the chapter being titled “world,” the pieces listed are nearly all European, with a few South American ones for the later dates.) While the original *Forgotten Coins* book consisted mostly of counterfeit British and Irish coppers of the 18th century, this book only has a dozen or so of those coins illustrated in this chapter, again with little rhyme or reason. The author again could have made use of an editor (or use of the spelling and grammar word check that comes with every word processing program,) as some parts are painful to read – and even if you manage to unravel the syntax it still doesn’t necessarily make much sense. There are numerous errors within the text, and some mistakes that would have been spotted by an editor – my favorite is a “1711 Queen Anne Shilling” counterfeit that is presented as a contemporary issue, despite it being a well-known 19th century gaming token.

Following this is a very short chapter on modern Chinese counterfeits, which illustrates just two coins, despite there being thousands of different ones available for pennies apiece. The fifth chapter is ostensibly on counterfeit Spanish 8-reales and runs just a few confusing pages, with only three coins illustrated – this for a series that has literally thousands of varieties known, and many newly discovered ones that could have been added after the publication of the Gurney reference a few years back; why these few pages were included is unclear. The final chapter is titled “Contemporary Counterfeit English/Irish Halfpence & Farthings” which of course was nearly the entire focus of the original *Forgotten Coins* book. This chapter consists of absolutely zero illustrations and some text that is not particularly useful - such as how to form a type collection of just 10 coins – yet the author doesn’t really list many actual type coins, instead considering an error, an evasion copper, a Machin’s Mill halfpenny and a real (?) British farthing as somehow “type coins” for a set of counterfeit British halfpence. Even better, you are encouraged to make your Machin’s Mills choice a 1786 or 1787 issue – the first one setting the bar rather high, since it doesn’t actually exist (and the crude 1786 counterfeit that pairs into the counterfeit Connecticut copper series is extremely rare, selling for 5-figures when it is offered.) These three chapters are short, and they feel like they were articles the author started writing, never finished, and decided to put into the book.

The appendices have a similar feel. They begin with a reprinting of a Gord Nichols article on “Wood 42” Blacksmith copper that would have been more useful in the Blacksmith section. Additionally, there is a listing of the XRF (X-Ray Fluorescence) results for Blacksmith tokens, despite the information's previous inclusion in the listings for that chapter. Next is a listing of the new varieties of Spanish 2-reales – though it should be in the chapter covering this area instead of an appendix. The fourth appendix describes pieces illustrated in the original *Forgotten Coins* book. The final appendix reprints the section from the first sale of the Mike Ringo collection, auctioned by Stack’s in January, 2008. This was unnecessary considering the sale can be viewed online at the Newman Numismatic Portal (where photographs can be enlarged.) As a recent auction catalogue, the whole thing can also be purchased from book dealers for roughly \$10. It takes up nearly 50 pages, adding significant weight to the book. Since prices realized for these lots are not given, the collector might find more utility in buying a copy of the entire catalogue.

Overall, the premise of this book is puzzling. The original *Forgotten Coins* book looked at a distinct series of coins, and though the text had errors, there was coherence to the work, and it was an enjoyable read. The “25th Anniversary Edition” has no such coherence, and is more an assemblage of some things the author collected, presented without much effort to make an attractive, useful product. In the end, the book may be worth buying if you collect Blacksmith tokens or the counterfeit 2-reales of Spain, but if your interests lie in the counterfeit British and Irish coppers that the original book looked at, this edition is probably not for you.

The third book in our trifecta came out in 2018 and is titled *Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpenny & Farthing Families*, and was published by C4 as its first venture into “Print-On-Demand” technologies. **Full disclosure: this reviewer wrote a number of chapters, contributed to the introduction and other parts of the book and helped edit the final product.** Unlike the previous books – and, indeed, most numismatic works – this book is the work of a group of collectors. Ten individual authors wrote or co-wrote 34 different chapters, each on a specific family of counterfeit British and Irish halfpence (despite the title, there were no farthing families discussed in this work, though hopefully future volumes will have some.) If that isn’t enough to digest, brief summaries of 19 additional families are also given – these are families that are known, but have not yet been fully flushed out; the authors of the summaries have shared information on the key attributes of those families, so collectors can at least attribute specimens by type and can later get them done by variety when they are fully written up.

The purpose of this book was different than many numismatic works published today. While it has a long introduction and tries to answer questions a collector may have, it is not a book that will be easy for the truly beginning collector to understand. But, like most things in life, the more you work at it, the better the reward. Each chapter (presented in alphabetical order by family name) gives a synopsis on that particular family, discusses the things that tie the members together, and discusses outliers (the coins that don’t fit perfectly with the rest of the group) where relevant, mules with other families and occasionally coins that look like they should belong to a given family but actually do not.

The length of each chapter depends on the size of the family being discussed. The smallest family is the Banana Nose, which has just two varieties that share a common obverse die (the extremely rare Baby Head variety also has a chapter – it is a single variety and thus not a family *per se*, but it was far too cool not to include in the book.) The larger families in this book include the Aging George, George II Simians and the Boyish George families. Each family has a plate (or series of plates) depicting all varieties known today, and gives attribution numbers for those varieties. These numbers follow the general format familiar to colonial collectors where obverse dies have a number and reverse dies have a letter – but depending on the size and complexity of the particular family there may be other letters and numbers added to the attribution string. This is surely going to be one of the more confusing areas to new collectors, but it is impossible to break down a subject this large and complex into manageable groups without all these variables being added in to the mix. A few of the family chapters have been published earlier, either in *The Colonial Newsletter* or *The C4 Newsletter*, but those chapters have been updated with new varieties discovered since, and have occasionally renumbered some varieties as needed (after the

publication of this book the authors have sworn to never again change variety attributions that have been printed, and new varieties will be added in at whatever the next available number/letter in sequence is.) There will be new varieties discovered for many, if not all, of the families in this book, but it is hoped that each family is roughly 85-90% complete. The discovery of new varieties adds excitement to any series, and it will be no different for counterfeit British coppers.

The plates show each variety known today, the photographs are mostly in color, enlarged and of surprisingly good quality (this was the area that this author was most concerned with before it was printed, but they turned out quite well.) The enlarged photographs make it easy to compare with a coin in hand, and it is expected that they will make the attribution process much easier. Most collectors have seen books or articles, some relatively recent, where the print quality makes the photographs nearly useless – for a book like this photographs are the most important part, and having them useful was the goal.

Now a look at what the book does not have. While the varieties are illustrated, there is no written text to help attribute them. For smaller families this isn't important, as a cursory glance will usually be all that is needed to find the variety. For larger families it is more difficult, and it does mean laboriously comparing a coin (or photo of one) to each plate, coin-by-coin, which will certainly be time consuming – but something that all of us have done as collectors in any of the state coinage series (and, admit it, that is really half the fun!.) But not publishing descriptions was a conscious choice by the editors – it would have taken quite a lot of time and more than doubled the size (and price) of the book. It is hoped that collectors in the future will publish die-variety descriptions, perhaps on a family-by-family basis. If the series increases in popularity this will surely happen, and it will make the series far more interesting to newer collectors – in the same way that picking up a Maris, Miller or Ryder made the job of attributing state coinages both infinitely easier and far more enjoyable in the process.

The book also doesn't have two things that most collectors truly, desperately want – rarity ratings and a price guide. This was also a decision made by the chapter authors and editors. Rarity ratings need a fair amount of raw data to be accurate, and we simply do not currently have the luxury of those numbers. Varieties that were called unique just 5 years ago now have half a dozen examples or more known – simply because once published, more seem to come out of the woodwork (and especially so if one sells for a fair amount of money); the same is true of every colonial book written in the last century and a half. The authors have mentioned when a family as a whole is rare, and it is expected that at some point down the road initial working rarity ratings can be calculated and shared – and as collectors who own coins start to attribute them by die variety we can at least get an idea of relative rarity, where some varieties are found in every collection (common) and others in just one or two (rare.)

Pricing is even more problematic. Even if the authors scrupulously stuck only to authentic prices realized at auction or on eBay, the situation is tricky – there are numerous examples where one example of a variety sells for hundreds of dollars and a few years later another one sells for under fifty bucks. Which is the accurate price? Supply and demand,

plus when and where the pieces were sold all come into play. Again, with the collection of more data over time, a rough price guide might be possible – but likely not particularly useful either, since the price something brings will always depend on how high the top two bidders are willing to go. Collectors of early date large cents learned this very early on: the Sheldon book on the series included pricing information which worked perfectly – for exactly one auction. After that sale disappointed collectors realized they could and should have bid more for the things they wanted, and the Sheldon estimates never worked again.

A book written by a series of authors will usually suffer a bit because there is no unifying voice, and such is the case here. Some chapters are very scientific, others have a more informal approach, some are dry and some are quirky. The grammar and word choices change from author-to-author, as one would expect, and the quality of each chapter, as a written text, fluctuates. That is to be expected for a book with many different voices, and this reviewer doesn't see it as a flaw since variety is the spice of life (and here you thought it was oregano.)

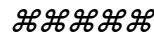
For the C4 member who doesn't really see the reason to buy this book – those that ignore the fact that these types of counterfeits were the most common coins in circulation in North America in the 18th century – there is an added bonus, a chapter on the Machin's Mills coinage with excellent plates and information (and there are also chapters on the 1781 and 1785-dated counterfeits which Eric Newman tied to North America – though probably incorrectly.) Placing the Machin's issues in context with counterfeit British types is rewarding – instead of seeing these as something unusual in the colonial coin series you get a completely different vantage point and see how they would have circulated side-by-side with counterfeit British halfpence and not been noticed as anything unusual – the “hiding in plain sight” thing that mystery writers adore. It also explains why it took 180 years for the Machin's coinage to first be attributed by die variety!

This book really has Roger Moore as its chief force – he wrote or co-wrote more chapters than anyone and he shepherded the authors into getting their chapters done on time (no easy task, as every editor knows.) Each author wrote their chapters as labors of love – none got paid a farthing (real or counterfeit,) and no individual makes a profit on this work. It is hoped that it is the first in a series, each illustrating and describing families that are known today and those yet to be discovered. It is not being marketed as The Final Word on the subject, but as the first scholarly look at these coins. The end result is a book that wades into uncharted territory and tries to make some sense of it all, and like any map of a new area it is not perfect – but it is very useful.

The book is available from Charlie Davis, who handles all the C4 Publications, and his information can be reached at numislit@aol.com (or see his ad in this journal for more contact options.) It should be noted that there are actually two versions of this work out there. The first was intended as a “review copy” of sorts, for comments and corrections. Those corrections were made, many areas slightly rewritten, grammar and punctuation fixed and the whole book cleaned up for the final version which is what is now available. Unfortunately the review version wasn't marked as such, but it is easy enough to determine which one you have – if the text is widely spaced and not justified at the right side of the page, you have the review copy (the front cover of the review copy is also slightly

different.) The review version was also done to test the Print-On-Demand option – the first time C4 has explored this format, and something that will likely be done in the future. While the “review copy” version had quite a few errors – which is why it needed to be reviewed in the first place! – it will also be a scarce piece of numismatic literature since few were printed. The examples of the book that Charlie Davis has for sale now will be “second printing,” but what should really be considered the first edition, and this is likely the one that collectors and those with at least some curiosity about the series will want to obtain (unless you are also a book collector, in which case get both!)

From a series that was virtually ignored for over two centuries to one that has more exciting and original research than just about anything in numismatics being done in the last few years is quite an unexpected journey. The earlier books reviewed here all helped play a part in that journey, and having new books is the key to sustaining that momentum. They increase interest in the series, causing further research to be done, and the hobby as a whole will be better off with this increase in knowledge. While no book is ever perfect, there are reasons for collectors to add the works reviewed here to their own numismatic libraries. The area of counterfeit British and Irish copper coinage is really one of the Last Frontiers of Colonial American numismatics, and being a collector at this time is akin to collecting colonials in the 1860s-1880s when Dickeson, Crosby and Maris were publishing their own books that laid the foundation for our hobby today.



SOUTH JERSEY METAL DETECTING CLUB

- Keep up with the latest news on colonial coin recoveries in the tri-state area
- Learn the tricks of the hobby from our friendly members or borrow a book from our lending library
- Learn how to beach detect at shore locations
- Many important recovered colonial coins have found their way to auction houses thru the SJMDC
- Join and reap the benefits of the monthly Newsletter to find out the scoop without being physically present

South Jersey Metal Detecting Club

Meetings held 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm
625 Station Ave, Haddon Heights (Municipal Bldg.)

www.SJMDC.org

ANA SUMMER SEMINAR EXPERIENCE: NUMISMATIC PAPER OF EARLY AMERICA COURSE

(Ray Williams)

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the ANA Summer Seminar course in Colorado Springs. I know that most of us collect “colonial coins,” but I’ve come to discover that colonial bills are just as interesting to own and study. I attended the course on colonial paper instructed by John Kraljevich and Erik Goldstein (neither require introductions.)

Arriving at the Colorado Springs airport on Saturday, I boarded the shuttle bus that took me to the Colorado College campus, where I registered and enjoyed a buffet lunch. There are many numismatic events you can attend that you could overdose if not careful. Sunday was the first of four days of classroom study. There was plenty of time for breakfast before starting class at 9:00 AM. We broke at 11:45 for lunch, returning at 1:15. Classes ended each day at 4:00.

The class covered about everything I’d want to know about colonial paper. The class was set up in a horseshoe configuration. Instead of following Eric Newman's book chronologically, all the colonies were handled by decade. Besides information about the bills themselves, the history that made the bills necessary in each time period was discussed.

Besides the bills issued by the colonies/states, the class also covered other fiscal documents...Sight drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes, receipts and checks. A significant amount of time toward the end of the class was spent on Continental Currency. The class was encouraged to participate, share their information and to ask questions. As in the past, John and Erik were very funny while we learned. Life is too short not to laugh out loud and often.

Outside of the class, I was thrilled to share a dinner with Ken Bressett at a favorite Mexican restaurant. Not only is Ken well-versed in colonial numismatics, his knowledge crosses the full spectrum! What fun that was! I also attended a Mets - Rockies game, the trip to which was organized by the ANA. The Mets won (YEA!) but the bus was slightly late arriving at the stadium. I made a bee line for the men’s room, and as I was enjoying the plumbing, I heard over the loud speaker that Nimmo hit an in-the-park homerun! I missed it! When nature calls...

I visited the ANA offices where all the work is done and met face-to-face with the editors whom I work with online. What wonderful people! And they work together like family (a happy family, not dysfunctional like on TV.) Lisa Williams and Caleb Noel (editors) were exactly how I pictured them.

Of the fifteen students in our class, six were C4 members. Two Young Numismatists were in our class – hope for the future! The campus is beautiful with an

awesome view of the Rocky Mountains with Pike's Peak prominent in the view. The week ends on Wednesday with a social hour and then a reception. There is so much more to a Summer Seminar, I hope many reading will consider attending one. Next year's colonial course will be on the colonial coins that the majority of us collect.



(Left) Author, Ray Williams. (Right) Instructor, Erik Goldstein
(Bottom) Instructor, John Kraljevich.

Photo credit: Liz Copan/Courtesy of the American Numismatic Association



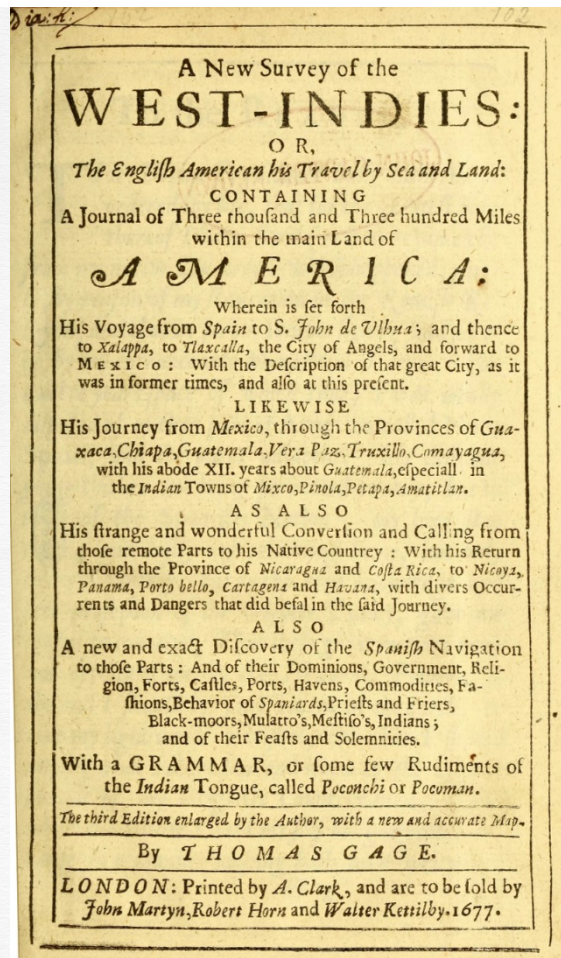
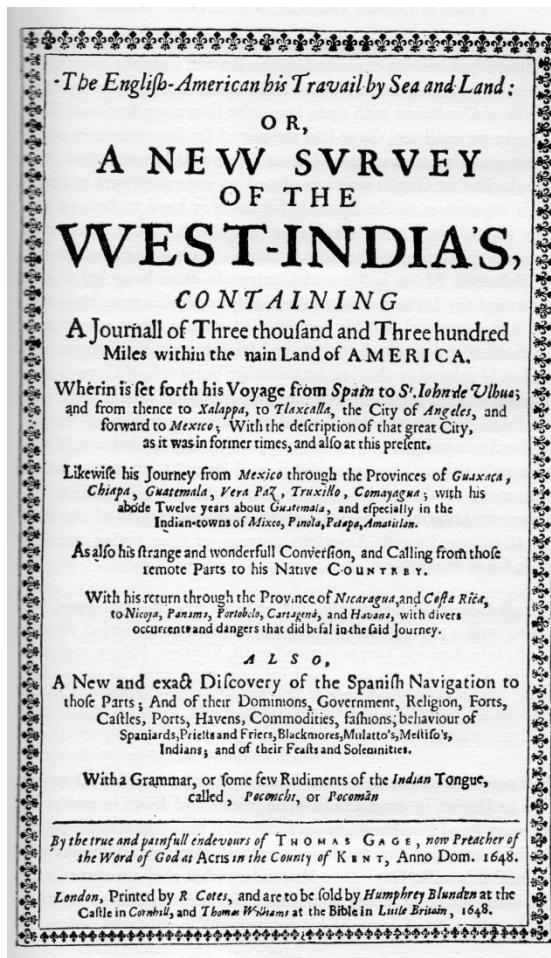
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# EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF THE TREASURE FLEET

(Jack Howes)

Thomas Gage (born circa 1603, died in Jamaica in 1656) was a Dominican priest who spent over a decade traveling in New Spain. He kept a diary/journal during these travels and after he returned to England, wrote a book titled, *The English American his Travail by Sea and Land or A New Survey of the West-India's*. He was an eyewitness and first class observer of the direct descendants of the Spanish conquerors and of the native population. The book was first published in 1648, but there are other many editions and the title was revised in later editions.



(Left) Title page of Gage's 1648 *The English American his Travail by Sea and Land or A New Survey of the West-India's* and (Right) A 1677 edition, *A New Survey of the West-Indies or The English American his Travel by Sea and Land*.

Gage's travels took him first to Mexico, where he remained for a time and taught [Latin?] in the convent school. There he befriended a friar who had run away from his duties in the Philippines and was told that the Dominican superiors there were cruel and the friars corrupt. To escape being himself shipped to the Philippines, Gage and three

others escaped from Mexico for Guatemala where he was accepted by the Dominicans as a useful addition to their numbers. He spent two or three years in the Dominican friary in the old capital of Guatemala, where he seems to have begun to have religious doubts. He asked to return to England but the authorities refused, on the grounds that missionaries had to remain in the Americas for ten years.

Pissed off, he decided to move on. Along with a friend he traveled into the new territories of Guatemala. He learned the native language [a Mayan derivative known as Pokoman] and preached to two communities of natives for five years. Through this work he was able to accumulate considerable wealth. By 1635, he had about 9,000 pieces of eight [or about 2,250 pounds sterling,] a considerable sum. He again requested to return to England and was refused, and was then posted at his own request to Petapa [Guatemala] where, after a year, he decided to run for it. At this point he had spent about 12 years [from 1625 to 1637] in Mexico and Guatemala. He had come in his twenties and was now about 35 years old.

Turning about half his savings into a more convenient medium, “pearls and some precious stones,” in January 1637, he made his way through Nicaragua and sailed from Costa Rica to Porto Bello. Gage kept the balance of his wealth in pieces of eight, either in bags or sewn into his clothing in various ways. His intention was to turn much of the silver into Spanish gold pistoles (two-escudos coins) along the way to Porto Bello. Unfortunately, he was captured by Dutch privateers en route. Gage was unharmed and was allowed to keep some books and paintings, but most of his other wealth was confiscated. He reached Porto Bello with little in the way of cash on hand.



Silver 8-reales and gold 2-escudos (pistole,) Phillip IV, Cartagena, Columbia (“NR” mintmark.)

## **Arrival of the Spanish Galleons [Treasure Fleet,] Described from Porto Bello**

I believe that what follows may be the only published eyewitness account of the treasure fleet; at least in English. I found it fascinating. I have transcribed the original text to make it somewhat more readable. I have standardized spelling, eliminated the archaic ligatures and changed a few archaic words. I edited one sentence to make it read better, otherwise it is exactly as Gage wrote it. I have even kept the capitalizations used in the text, which made capitals of any important [to the author] nouns. The whole book is interesting, some parts more than others, but not an easy read. I have donated a copy to the C4 library.

He convinces a ship captain to provide him passage to Spain in return for performing the duties of a chaplain and eventually does get back to England. Gage finds he had been disinherited by his father. After further travels to Rome and back he becomes a Puritan.

## **Transcription of Thomas Gage's Description of the Galleons arriving in Porto Bello**

“When I came into the Haven, I was sorry to see that as yet the Galleons were not come from *Spain*, knowing that the longer I stayed in that place, the greater would be my charges. Yet I comforted myself that the time of the year was come, and that they could not long delay their coming. My first thoughts were of taking a lodging, which at that time were plentiful and cheap, nay, some were offered me for nothing with this caveat, that when the galleons did come, I must either leave them or pay a dear rate for them.

“A kind Gentleman, who was the King's Treasurer, falling in discourse with me, promised to help me, that I might be cheaply lodged even when the ships came and lodgings were at the highest rate. He, interposing his authority, went with me to seek one, which at the time of the Fleets being there, might continue to be mine. It was no bigger than would contain a Bed, a Table, and a Stool or two, with room enough besides to open and shut the door, and they demanded six score Crowns of me for it during the aforesaid time of the fleet, which commonly is a fortnight. For the town being little, and the soldiers that come with the galleons for their defense at least four or five thousand, besides merchants from *Peru*, from *Spain*, and many other places to buy and sell, is the cause that every room, though never so small, be dear. And sometimes all the lodgings in the Town are few enough for the many people which at that time do meet at *Portobello*.

“I knew a Merchant who the year that I was there gave a thousand Crowns for a shop of reasonable bigness to sell his wares and commodities for fifteen days only, while the Fleet continued to be in that Haven. I thought the six score Crowns which were demanded of me much for a room, which was but as a Mouse hole, and I began to be troubled, and told the King's Treasurer that I had been lately robbed at Sea, and was not able to give so much and be besides at charges for my diet, which I feared would prove as much more. But not a farthing would be abated of what was asked, whereupon the good Treasurer, pitying me, offered

to pay the man of the house three-score Crowns of it, if I was able to pay the rest, which I must do, or else lie without in the street.

“Yet till the Fleet did come I would not enter into this dear hole, but accepted of another fair lodging which was offered me for nothing. Whilst I thus expected the fleet’s coming, I got some money and offerings for Masses and for two Sermons which I preached at fifteen Crowns apiece. I visited the Castles, which indeed seemed unto me to be very strong; but what most I wondered at was to see the *recua*’s of mules which came thither from Panama, laden with wedges of silver. In one day I told [counted] two hundred Mules laden with nothing else, which were un-laden in the public Market-place, so that there the heaps of silver wedges lay like heaps of stones in the street, without any fear or suspicion of being lost. Within ten days the fleet came, consisting of eight Galleons and ten Merchant ships, and that forced me to run to my hole.

“It was a wonder then to see the multitude of people in those streets which the week before had been empty. Then the price of all things began to rise, a fowl to be worth twelve Reals, which in the main land within I had often bought for one a pound of beef then was worth two Reals, whereas I had had in other places thirteen pound for half a Real, and so of all other food and provision. All was so excessive dear that I knew not how to live but by fish and Tortoises, which there are very many, and though somewhat dear, yet were the cheapest meat that I could eat. It was worth seeing how Merchants sold their commodities, not by the Ell or Yard, but by the Piece and Weight, not paying in coined pieces of money, but in Wedges which were weighed and taken for commodities.

“This lasted but fifteen days, whilst the Galleons were lading with wedges of silver and nothing else, so that for those fifteen days, I dare boldly say and avouch that in the world there is no greater fair than that of *Portobello*, between the *Spanish* Merchants and those of *Peru*, *Panama*, and other parts thereabouts. [... story of recantation sermon ...]

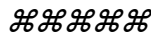
“Don Carlos de Ybarra, who was the Admiral of that Fleet, made great haste to be gone, and that made the merchants buy and sell apace, and lade the ships with silver wedges. Whereof I was glad, for the more they laded, the less I unladed my purse with buying dear provision, and the sooner I hoped to be out of that unhealthy place, which of itself is very hot, and subject to breed Fevers, nay, death, if the feet be not preserved from wetting when it raineth. But especially when the fleet is there, it is an open grave ready to swallow a good part of that numerous people which at that time resort to it. That was seen the year that I was there, when about five hundred of the Soldiers, Merchants, and Mariners, what with Fevers, what with the Flux caused by too much eating of fruit and drinking of water, what with other disorders, lost their lives. They found it to be to them not *Porto bello*, but *Porto malo*. And this is usual every year; and therefore, for the relief and comfort of those that come sick from sea, or sicken there, a great and rich Hospital is in the Town, with many friars called *De la Capacha*, or by others *De Juan de Dios*, whose calling and profession is only to cure and attend upon the sick, and to bear the dead unto their graves.



“The Admiral, fearing the great sickness that year, made haste to be gone, not fearing the report of some three or four *Holland* or *English* ships abroad at Sea, waiting (as it was supposed) for some good prize out of that great and rich Fleet. This news made me begin to fear, and to think of securing myself in one of the best and strongest Galleons, but when I came to treat of my passage in one of them, I found that I could not be carried in any under three hundred Crowns, which was more than my purse was able to afford. With this I thought to address myself to some Master of a Merchant’s ship, though I knew I could not be so safe and secure in any of them as in a Galleon well manned and fortified with Soldiers and Guns of Brass.

“Yet I hoped in God, who is a strong refuge to them that fear him, and in this occasion provided for me a cheap and sure passage. For meeting one day with my friend the Treasurer, he again pitied me as a stranger and lately robbed, and commended me to the master of a merchant ship, the *San Sebastián*, whom he knew was desirous to carry a Chaplain with him at his own table. I no sooner addressed myself Unto him, using the name and favor of his and my friend the Treasurer, but I found him willing to accept of my company, promising to carry me for nothing, and to board me at his own Table, only for my prayers to God for him and his. He offered further to give me some satisfaction for whatsoever Sermons I should preach in his ship. I blessed God, acknowledging in this also his providence, who in all occasions furthered my return to *England*.

“The ships being laden, we set forth towards *Cartagena*. The second day of our sailing we discovered four ships which made the merchant ships afraid, and caused them to keep close to the galleons, trusting to their strength more than their own. The ship I was in was swift and nimble under sail, and kept under the wings either of the Admiral or of some other of the best Galleons, but all the other Merchants ships were not so for some came slowly on behind, and of them two were carried away by the *Hollanders* in the night, before ever we could get to *Cartagena*.”



# Early American Coppers

Colonials, Half Cents, Large Cents, and Hard Times Tokens and more. EAC comprises over 1,200 knowledgeable members located throughout the United States.



## Benefits of Membership

### Penny-Wise

This is the official journal for EAC. Well-respected among numismatic journals in the United States, it has won a number of awards from the Numismatic Literary Guild under the editorship of Harry E. Salyards since 1986. It is published quarterly in January, April, July and October.

### EAC Website

All issues of Penny-Wise, back to the first issue in the fall of 1967, are available to the world on the Newman Numismatic Portal. Issues published in the last two years are available in the "Members Only" section of the EAC website. The Members only section includes a wealth of information, video and media presentations.

### Annual EAC Convention

The EAC Convention is held in early spring. This year we will meet at the beautiful Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Michigan. Meeting sites are rotated throughout the United States. In addition, EAC holds meetings and symposiums in conjunction with major coin conventions. They are the best way for new members to become familiar with early coppers and to meet others who share similar interests.

### Region 8

Members enjoy a weekly newsletter email, consisting of submissions from other Region 8 members. Any EAC member can join Region 8.

### Copper Notes and Dark Side

Copper Notes is EAC's online community, our very own private Facebook page. All EAC members are welcome but must request an invitation. Copper Notes is not visible to the general Facebook population. Enjoy real time conversations with the experts! Dark Side is a similar format discussing counterfit Coins and anomalies.

EAC yearly dues are \$39.00. A junior membership (under 18) is available for \$5.00

**Join today by visiting [www.eacs.org](http://www.eacs.org)**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **The Colonial Coin Collectors Club Announces The Release of the Definitive Book on the St. Patrick Coinage by Sydney F. Martin**

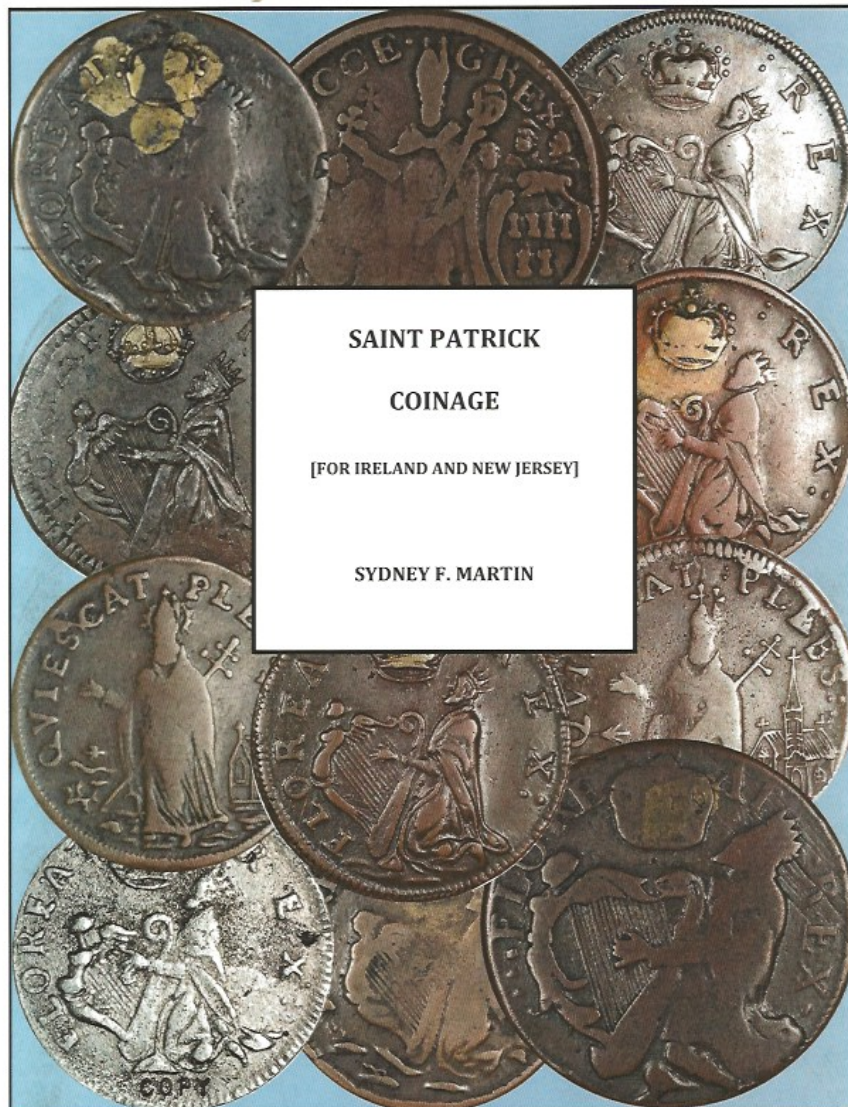
Boston – May 27, 2018 – today, The Colonial Coin Collectors Club, (C4), released Sydney F. Martin's latest book, *Saint Patrick Coinage For Ireland and New Jersey*. This is the fourth book published by C4 that has been written by Syd Martin, the former editor of the *C4 Newsletter* and current President of The American Numismatic Society. His other works are *The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood*, *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood*, and *French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America*. These books are all considered the standard references for these series today. Syd's latest work covers a series that has long vexed researchers on both sides of the Atlantic – the St. Patrick coinage. In researching this book Syd traveled to Ireland and spent many hours in the archives in New Jersey in search of clues, discovering some fascinating answers and developing several new theories regarding the coinage. This coinage has long been shrouded in mystery as to when and where it was made, and for what purpose. Syd discusses the theories that have been proposed so far, and the pros and cons of each plus some exciting new theories of his own.



According to Lou Jordan, the Curator of Numismatic Collections for the University of Notre Dame, this book is “groundbreaking!” Phil Mossman, former editor of *The Colonial Newsletter (CNL)*, writes that “Syd has described in detail the visual imagery and icons symbolized on these coins by hand-engraved dies. A total of 197 varieties of small St. Patrick coins have been meticulously cataloged by him and presented in an easy to follow format.” Mossman went on to state that “the nine varieties of large St. Patrick coppers, identified as a separate entity, are equally well presented.” Christopher McDowell, editor of *CNL*, states that “this is the most important book on colonial numismatics to be published in many years. It is doubtful that this book will ever be surpassed in its coverage of the series. If you collect St. Patrick coinage or are interested in colonial numismatics, this book is a must-have.”

In many ways this work is a collaborative effort, helped by many collectors who shared access to their St. Patrick collections for Syd to examine and photograph. The result is the first complete and illustrated catalogue of all known varieties in the series; unlike Syd's earlier three books, this one features color photographs. Other topics covered include the manufacturing history of the coins, literary discussion of the series, a history of their circulation in America, and a fascinating Appendix that includes what Syd calls "Miscellany." According to Phil Mossman, what Syd calls "Miscellany" is actually "well-researched inquiries into the lineage of an elusive series." C4 is very proud to publish this book and its long association with Syd Martin.

The 528 page book is hardbound, with color illustrations throughout of the different coin varieties examined, with dust jacket. *Saint Patrick Coinage: For Ireland and New Jersey*, by Sydney F. Martin, is available for \$95 for C4 members or \$125 for nonmembers of C4, plus \$7.25 shipping from bookseller Charles Davis, (numisbook.com,) Box 1, Wenham, MA 01984, or telephone 978.468-2933.





The Colonial Coin Collectors Club announces a 2<sup>nd</sup> printing:  
**CONTEMPORARY COUNTERFEIT HALFPENNY AND  
FARTHING FAMILIES, 2<sup>nd</sup> PRINTING**

By Roger Moore, Eugene Andrews, Robert Bowser, John Howes, John Louis, David Palmer,  
Jeff Rock, Rickie Rose, Clem Schettino, and Byron Weston

This monograph is the start of an effort to organize and bring structure to this area of colonial numismatics: it breaks down the vast number of different varieties into related groups called Families. A Family of contemporary counterfeits is a group of coins that likely came from the same minting operation at about the same time. Families are logical groups that share one or more of the following attributes: dies, die making punches, or similarities in the design style. This updated large format, glossy hardcover, 294 pages and profusely illustrated in color will be available in July for \$54.95 from Barnes & Noble, Amazon books, and other mass market retailers. Check specifically for ISBN 978-1-64255-857-9.

Comments on *Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpenny and Farthing Families*:

Jim Rosen, Past President, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, Inc.:

“Finally, a wonderful and badly needed reference book of extraordinary importance that for the first time begins the monumental task of putting order to the unorganized field of counterfeit halfpence and farthings.”

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**THE C4 NEWSLETTER IS ON  
THE NEWMAN NUMISMATIC PORTAL!**

Past issues of The C4 Newsletter, and a plethora of other important numismatic resources are now available online, through The Newman Numismatic Portal, at:

[www.archive.org/details/newmannumismatic](http://www.archive.org/details/newmannumismatic)

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**Contemporary Counterfeit  
Halfpenny & Farthing Families**

By Roger Moore, Eugene Andrews, Robert Bowser, John Howes, John Louis,  
David Palmer, Jeff Rock, Rickie Rose, Clem Schettino, and Byron Weston



This book is the start of an effort to organize and bring structure to this area of colonial numismatics.

## COMPLETE C4 NEWSLETTER CDs FOR SALE

C4 is making available on CD of a complete set of *C4 Newsletters* from 1993 (vol.1, no.1) through 2011 (vol.19, no. 4.) The format is a fully searchable PDF files, which makes life and research much easier. Thanks to Randy Clark, Ray Williams and Gary Trudgen for their vision and extremely hard work, which now lets us offer these wonderful research tools to you for \$50 plus \$4.00 p&h for members or \$75 plus \$4.00 p&h for non-members. To order, please contact either (a) Wayne Shelby at [dughistory@juno.com](mailto:dughistory@juno.com) or at P.O. Box 568 Rancocas, NJ 08073 or (b) Charlie Rohrer at [RohrerC@cadmus.com](mailto:RohrerC@cadmus.com) or at P.O. Box 25 Mountville, PA 17554. Please send your check made out to C4 to Charlie Rohrer at the above address.

I need help in a project that will turn into a *C4 Newsletter* article on estimating the surviving population of State Coinages. I am developing a model but need to better understand how many NJ coppers collectors hold. Only aggregated data will be used. I am looking for information on total number of NJ coppers, number recovered (dug), number purchased, and number sold in last 12 months or longer periods if available. I am looking for data from any size collections or accumulations.

**J. Howes;** 19967 East Doyle; Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236; 313 319-1743

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### Obtaining Back Copies of C4 Newsletter and C4 Auction Catalogues

Wayne Shelby has agreed to store the back copies of the *C4 Newsletter*. People wishing to purchase back issues that are still available should send their money to our treasurer, Charlie Rohrer, whose contact data are at page 2. Upon receipt of the money, he will contact Wayne, who will mail out the material. Back copies of the *Newsletter* are \$10 for the first and \$8 for all after that placed at the same time. If you have questions of what material is available, you can contact Wayne at:

P.O. Box 568  
Rancocas, NJ 08073-956

[dughistory@juno.com](mailto:dughistory@juno.com)  
609-261-6662 (Home)

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## RESOURCE FOR THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Our C4 Newsletter now has an index available on our website at [www.colonialcoins.org](http://www.colonialcoins.org). There are actually two indexes: one by author and a second by topic/title. This is a beginning and the index will improve over time. We have intentions of updating the index within a week or two of every issue being shipped. We ask past authors and contributors to the C4N to please review their work in the index and forward any corrections/additions/suggestions to Ray Williams at [njraywms@optonline.net](mailto:njraywms@optonline.net) or call.

## C4 Offers Important Colonial Books

For more information on the following books, published by the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4), visit the C4 website at [www.colonialcoins.org](http://www.colonialcoins.org). These books may be ordered directly from: Charles Davis' website: [www.numisbook.com](http://www.numisbook.com).

(1) Carlotto, Tony, *The Copper Coins of Vermont and Those Bearing the Vermont Name*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 1998. Price: \$165.

(2) Jordan, Lou. *John Hull, The Mint, and The Economics of Massachusetts Coinage*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2002. Price: \$10.

(3) McDowell, Christopher R., *Abel Buell and the History of the Connecticut and Fugio Coinages*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2015. Price \$85.

(4) Martin, Sydney. *French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2016. Price \$85.

(5) Martin, Sydney. *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood (1722-1724)*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2007. Price: \$85.

(6) Martin, Sydney. *The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2012. Price \$85.

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The Daniel Frank Sedwick database of fake cobs is now on ForgeryNetwork :

<http://www.forgerynetwork.com/default.aspx?keyword=cob> ..

<http://www.forgerynetwork.com/asset.aspx?id=QEjfd5ZR~x~8=>

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## C4 Membership Dues

Annual dues are currently \$30.00 for Regular Membership (\$40 if residing outside the United States) and \$10.00 for Junior Membership (under 18 years of age; \$15 is non US resident.) They are payable on a calendar year basis... due January 1. The year through which you are paid appears after your name on the mailing address label on the *C4 Newsletter* envelope. Life Memberships can be purchased for 25 times the annual membership cost, or \$750.00. You may mail checks (made out to "C4") to:

Charlie Rohrer, C4 Treasurer  
PO Box 25  
Mountville, PA 17554

Thank you for paying in a timely manner... It makes his job easier and will be much appreciated!

**TO ALL MEMBERS:  
THE C4 LIBRARY CHALLENGE – KEEP IT GOING**  
(Leo Shane, C4 Librarian)

The C4 Library has grown to almost 300 Books and over 700 Auction Catalogs (full and partial.) In addition, there are many non print recordings and other miscellaneous items. Many titles are out of print and hard to find. Some titles are rare. A complete listing can be viewed on the club website.

As the C4 Librarian I'd like to issue a challenge to all C4 Members. The challenge covers the next 12 months (roughly 1 November 2017 to 1 November 2018.) During that time, I'd like every member to borrow at least one item from the C4 Library, read it and then write a ½ to 1 page summary for publication in the C4 Newsletter. The summary should identify:

- 1.) What was borrowed? (title, author, edition)
- 2.) What was the subject matter in the item.?
- 3) Why did you borrow that particular item?
- 4) What did you learn from reading/studying it?
- 5) What other C4 Members would benefit from borrowing this item?

Many of the items in our library are not familiar to other members especially newer members. This Challenge will accomplish two things: First – You will learn something new that you didn't know before. Second – You will be alerting other C4 members to items that may help them increase their hobby knowledge.

As the inscription on the Fugio Cent says, "Time Flies So Mind your Business." Make this challenge your business to increase our understanding of the Coins and Paper Money we collect.

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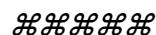
**PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS**

In accordance with our by-laws, those who have recently joined C4 as provisional members are listed below. If any current C4 member in good standing has a reason any of the following should be denied membership in C4, please contact either your Regional VP or the President of the Club, Jack Howes. The new provisional members, with their home states, are :

Mark Borckardt - TX  
Michael Brooks - NJ  
Eric Correira - MA  
Robert Davis - CA  
James Dunbar - RI

Fred Genchi - VA  
Cole Hendrickson - AZ  
Richard Ippolito - NY  
Robert Mellor - FL

Harry Rescigno - NJ  
Thomas Rourke - CT  
Bill Sommers - AL  
Abigail Zechman - FL





I am in the process of researching information pertaining to the Talbot, Allum & Lee series. I am seeking assistance from C-4 members who may have knowledge regarding the evolution of the series and the coins that were issued. I possess the basic series including all mules. If you have any unique or off metal pieces, or a half cent struck over a Talbot piece I would love to have access to them if possible.

Please contact Arnold Miniman at [ahminiman@gmail.com](mailto:ahminiman@gmail.com), or (201) 317-4199.

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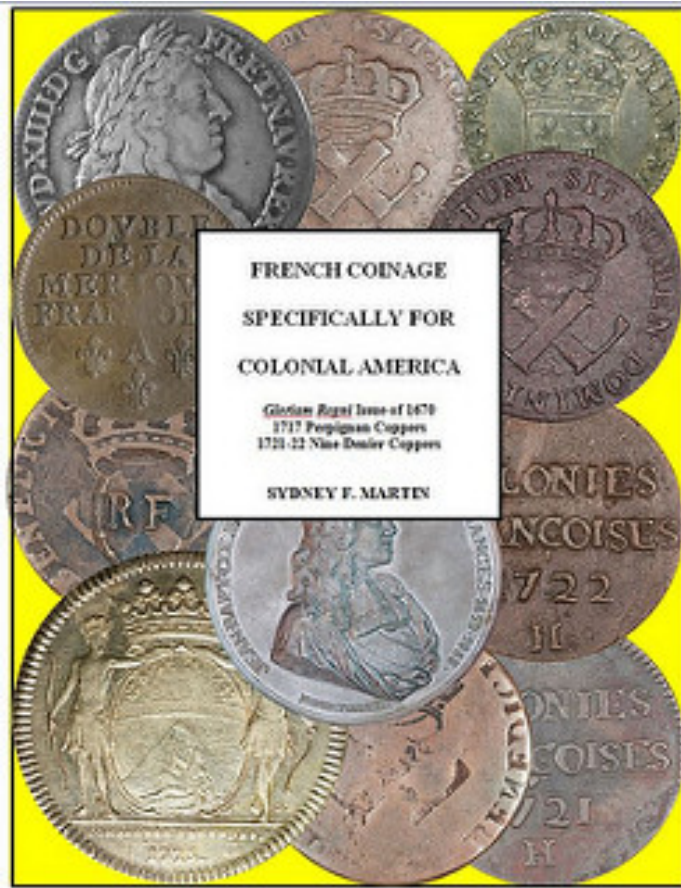
### **FRENCH COINAGE SPECIFICALLY FOR COLONIAL AMERICA**

The Colonial Coin Collectors Club, C4, released Sydney F. Martin's latest book, *French Coinage Specifically For Colonial America*. This is the third colonial coin book published by C4 written by Syd Martin. Other works include *The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood* and *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood*. The Rosa and Hibernia books are now considered standard references for those coinages and Syd's long awaited new book is expected to become the leading reference works on French Coinage minted for circulation in North America.

According to Lou Jordan, the curator of numismatic collections for the University of Notre Dame, "Sid Martin has written the definitive catalog of French coinage authorized specifically for use in North America." Jordan went on to state that "this is an essential book for anyone interested in the French coinage of colonial North America."

"What many early American coin collectors fail to recognize," Martin said upon the book's release, "is that from the 16th century until 1763, New France included much of what is now the United States, as well as most of Canada. As such, coins minted by France for circulation in its North American colonies should be considered 'coins of the realm' in these areas." Colonial numismatic expert, John Kraljevich, went on to explain that "the history of the French in what is today the United States is largely forgotten. However, the memory of these people and their coinage has been long cherished in Canada."

Jim Rosen, president of C4, predicts that "Martin's new book will awaken an interest in both the history of the French speaking people in North America and the coins they used such as the Gloriam Regni coins of 1670, the 6 and 12-denier copper coins minted in 1717, and the copper 9-denier coins from 1721 and 22, all of which were struck in France specifically for circulation in the Americas."



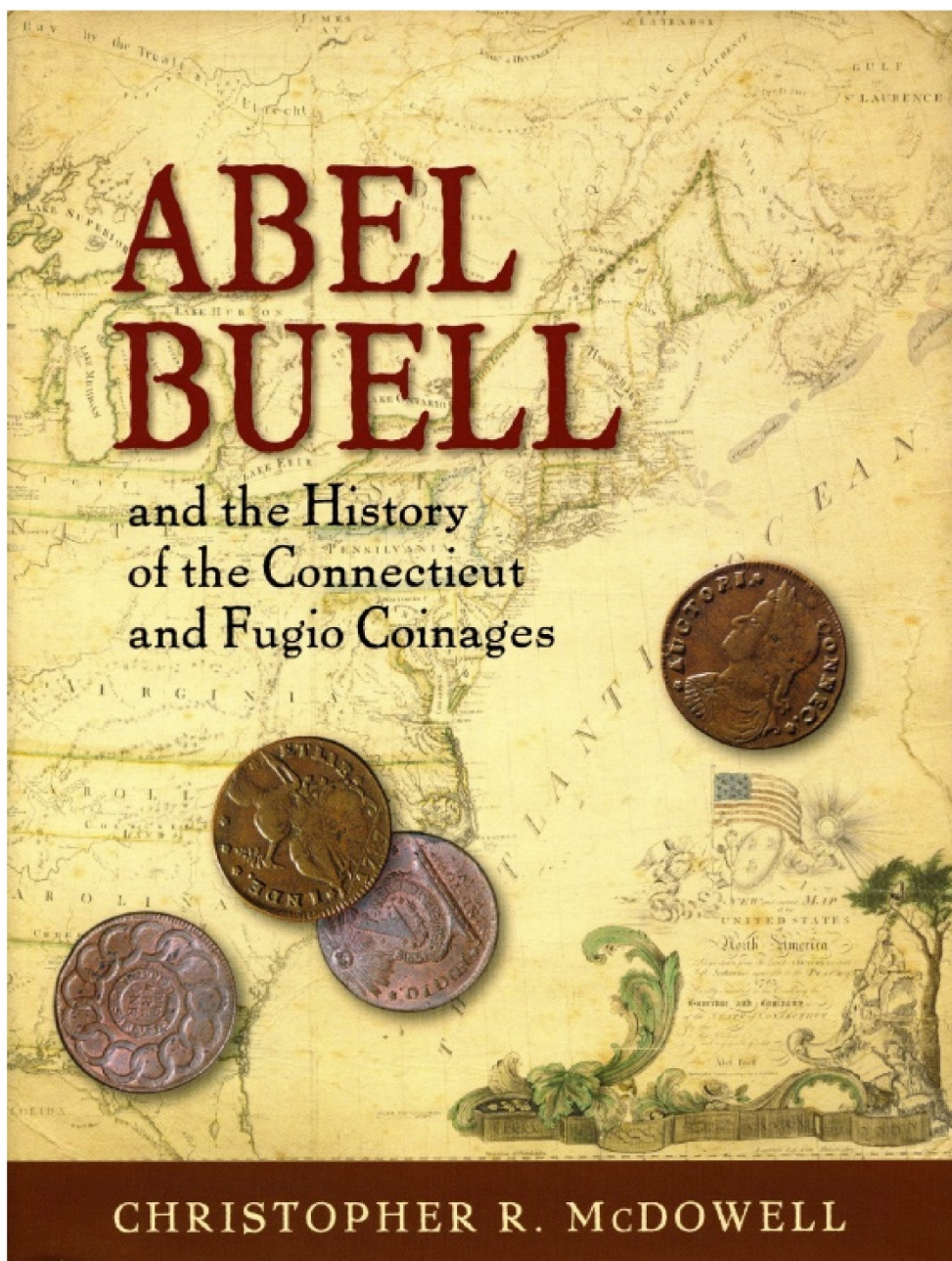
In the book's introduction, John Kraljevich writes that, "With Crosby-like flair, Syd has marshaled together the original documents that tell the stories of these coinages. Most have never been published at all, let alone in English or all in one place. This original research guarantees this work's importance to researchers in every forthcoming generation. The heart of this book, the die studies, offers several pathways for collectors to navigate these series, by basic type, by major variety, by die combination, or even by die state. It's a project that no one has ever even attempted before, an outlier in the world of colonial numismatics, a field that has seen multiple die studies of most of the popular series. Given Syd's well-

organized approach and the thousands of coins he's studied, it may be generations before this work is supplanted. It's doubtful anyone will ever do it any better."

The 480 page book is hardbound, well-illustrated throughout with photographs of the different coin varieties examined, with dust jacket depicting French Coinage. The book is available for \$85.00 plus \$7.00 shipping from bookseller Charles Davis, (<http://www.numisbook.com/>), Box 1, Wenham, MA 01984, or telephone 978.468-2933.



**Support the C4 Club education initiatives buy this book:**



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or via email: [charlesdavis@vcoins.com](mailto:charlesdavis@vcoins.com)



## RESEARCH ASSISTANCE SOUGHT

I'm currently undertaking a comprehensive study of the Castorland jeton. I'm approaching the study from both sides of the Atlantic, relying heavily on French sources, and my study entails operational details from the manufacture of flans to the mechanical workings of the screw press; the history of jetons as they evolved from arithmetical counters to monarchical presentation pieces; events leading up to the establishment of the New York Company; the biography of Benjamin Duvivier; etc. culminating in detailed descriptions of variants struck from at least one original die. As you can see it's a big work, but I've been at it quite a few years and am wonderfully engaged in the project. Here is a "finding list" of details I'm looking for, as well as photos if possible:

1. If the specimen is in a slab, all the label information.
2. Identify the metal, gold, silver, copper, bronze. If silver, indicate thin or thick planchet.
3. If edge-stamped, identify the symbol and the lettering and location of the stamping (such as 6 o'clock relative the obverse.)
4. Die alignment: coin turn/medal turn.
5. Describe state of any reverse die failure, perceptible bulge, advanced crack, etc.
6. Describe reverse caustic incursion, sometimes identified as rust, at the right handle of the vessel.
7. Describe any other identifying factors such as rim bumps, scratches, spots, unfilled letters of legends, etc. that would help identify the piece if it were re-encapsulated at some future time.
8. Indicate the provenance, if known. If you currently own the specimen feel free to identify it ex your name for the benefit of future owners.

Please contact Chester L. Sullivan at [csull@ku.edu](mailto:csull@ku.edu).



***What is it?*** (See bottom of page 9.)

*Answer: The "New England Stiver." Sylvester Crosby and other numismatists of his time thought this small, unique coin to be of Dutch origin and dating to c. 1650. The initials "I S V C" or "I V S C" were never deciphered. Until the early 1970s, the coin was plated in Red Book. At that time, the prevailing opinion shifted to its being a more recent fabrication and the coin more or less disappeared from numismatic discourse.*





## **CLASSIFIED ADS**

*Due to increased publications and mailing costs, the charge for half and full-page ads will increase for Volume 24. The new rates are shown below. These rates are still below comparable newsletters.*

Grayscale ads for this newsletter can be purchased as follows (color ads are 50% more in each category):

|          | 1 issue | 2 issues | 3 issues | 4 issues | Copy Size |
|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1 page   | \$300   | \$450    | \$600    | \$750    | 6" x 9"   |
| 1/2 page | \$175   | \$250    | \$325    | \$400    | 6" x 4.5" |

Covers cost somewhat more (please inquire – generally \$200 additional.) If you want to include a photo with your ad there will be an additional \$10 charge. A black and white photo will be needed, but the size can be adjusted. Please send check with your ad. We accept camera-ready copy or any Microsoft Word compatible computer file.

All members also have the right to include a free classified ad in the newsletter of up to 10 lines of text.

NOTICE: The Colonial Coin Collectors Club does not review the ads provided for accuracy, nor does it assess any items offered for sale relative to authenticity, correct descriptions, or the like. C4 is not to be considered a party to any transactions occurring between members based on such ads, and will in no way be responsible to either the buyer or seller.



Todd Gredesky PO Box 102 Woodbury, NJ 08096

856-803-6102(cell) email: njtodd7@hotmail.com

2002 C4 Auction Catalog \$8

2004 C4 Auction Catalog \$8

2009 C4 Auction Catalog \$8

2010 C4 Auction Catalog \$8

Foreign buyers add \$3 postage.

Wanted Canadian Auction Catalogs featuring Blacksmith tokens.

## COLONIAL NEWSLETTER

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[www.CabinetsByCraig.net](http://www.CabinetsByCraig.net) (note that it's .net), or call 972-978-7710, or write: PO Box 1231, Frisco, TX 75034.



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If you want to read something totally different and a bit radical, I think you will enjoy my new book. It is a heartfelt exploration of history as told by coins lost in the dirt. The book also explains how old coppers decay when confronted with Mother Nature. Finally, I examine the aesthetics of corrosion, born of the conflict between nature and man (wherein nature wins.) Check it out & enjoy a great weekend read.

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Thanks. Michael S. Shutty, Jr.



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Michael Demling 1750 Zion Rd Suite 106A Northfield, NJ 08225



## C4 Newsletter

Clement V. Schettino; PO Box 1093; Saugus, MA 01906  
copperclem@comcast.net; copperclem.com

Some of the Earliest American Coppers. Contemporary Counterfeit British & Irish Halfpence and Farthings. My personal collections built over the past decade are now for sale. We now have a webpage up and running with most all coins imaged and priced.

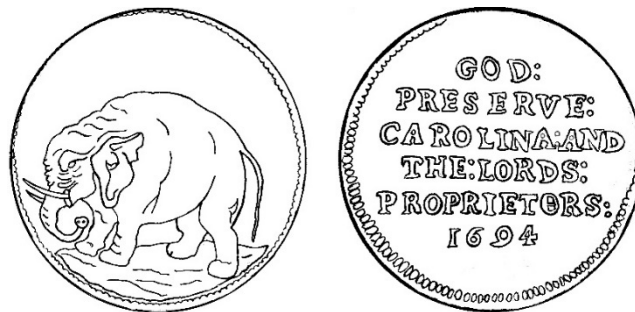
More will go up from time to time. I also have some Colonials and Spanish American Colonials-Cobs up. There are currently about 12 categories populated with coins for sale, they are; British George II, British George III, Irish George II, Irish George III, Counterstamps, Cast Ctfts, Mules, Errors, Regales Colonials and Cobs. In the near future I will be adding some interesting Misc pieces.

I am still selling CD's of my collections, the details are on the webpages.

Postage is always free for C4 and EAC members. Please use the savings towards next year's dues ;-).

Please visit the webpages at [coppercllem.com](http://coppercllem.com) and feel free to email with any questions.

WANTED: I need five AJN's (Volume 24, Numbers 3 and 4; Volume 27, Numbers 1, 3, and 4). These are whole numbers 127, 128, 137, 138, and 140. All are scarce, and I am willing to pay fairly for any of them in decent condition. Contact me at [sfmartin5@comcast.net](mailto:sfmartin5@comcast.net). Thanks, Syd Martin





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